

Russian government: Honecker must go

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian government has decided that the presence of former East German leader Erich Honecker in the Soviet Union is illegal and he must leave the country, the Interfax news agency said Saturday. The news agency quoted Russian Justice Minister Nikolai Fyodorov as saying the decision to expel Mr. Honecker was taken Friday by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's government. Mr. Honecker, 79, fled with the help of the Soviet armed forces, Germany has requested that he be extradited to face criminal charges. "It was stated that the actions of the Soviet organs in taking Honecker into the USSR from German territory were a rude violation of international law and they openly ignored both Soviet and Russian legislation regulating foreigners staying on Soviet and Russian territory," Interfax said. "The actions of officials who helped arrange the illegal entry of Honecker into the USSR can be qualified as criminal abuse of power," the report quoted Mr. Fyodorov as saying. Interfax said Mr. Honecker's presence in the Russian Republic was declared illegal and "the government took a decision to expel Erich Honecker from the Russian Federation."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Tehran Times: Two hostages to be freed

NICOSIA (AP) — The English-language newspaper Tehran Times says two Western hostages, an American and a Briton, will soon be freed from captivity in Lebanon. A report published Sunday in the English-language newspaper said the kidnappers "would most probably give priority to a British hostage." The only Briton still held in Lebanon is Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in Beirut Jan. 20, 1987, while trying to negotiate the release of American hostages. Four Americans are still held hostage by fundamentalists linked to Iran. "Our correspondent reported that the captors of Western hostages will release two Western hostages, one British and one American, on humanitarian grounds," the Times report said. The newspaper also said that United Nations envoy Giandomenico Picco had arrived in Damascus to pursue efforts to end the saga of the foreign captives in Lebanon. U.N. officials in New York confirmed Friday that Mr. Picco had left for the Middle East to pursue efforts to free the hostages, but did not say where exactly he headed for.

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Swedish group uses Iraqi Airways plane

AMMAN (R) — A Swedish relief organisation said Saturday it had used an Iraqi Airways plane to fly supplies from Sweden in the first humanitarian flight allowed the grounded airline since the invasion of Kuwait. The Committee to Save the Children in Iraq said the Boeing 707 flew to Amman from Stockholm on Friday carrying 16.5 tonnes of food, medical equipment and medicine. The supplies left by truck for Iraq Saturday. Iraqi Airways has been grounded since the United Nations imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait last year. The relief agency, a coalition of Swedish aid organisations, said the U.N. Sanctions Committee had approved the use of the Iraqi plane.

Libya assails Israel's stand on Golan Heights

NICOSIA (R) — Libya Saturday joined other Arab states in denouncing an Israeli vote to uphold occupation of the Golan Heights and urged the U.N. to apply international law equally to all countries. A Foreign Ministry statement said Libya "strongly denounces and condemns this decision." The Israeli parliament passed a draft resolution Monday placing the Golan Heights off-limits in the Middle East peace talks. The statement said Libya supported Syria's right to recover all occupied territory. It called on the world community, "especially the Security Council and the U.N., to shoulder their responsibility of applying the principles of international law to all without any exception."

French evacuate nationals from north Djibouti

NAIROBI (AP) — The French army Saturday evacuated about 15 French citizens from a village in northern Djibouti where fighting has intensified between government troops and rebel forces. In Paris, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said there were no plans to evacuate anyone else from the small nation on the Horn of Africa. The spokesman said the French were pulled from the desert town of Tadjourah, 170 kilometres north of Djibouti's capital.

Kuwaitis, foreigners held for fake visas

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Eight men who planned to sell false work visas to thousands of Asian workers were charged with forgery Saturday, police said. "We arrested them Monday in two apartments with the forged immigration stamps, the documents and 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars they had received as down payments," said Colonel Abdullah Al Fares, head of the criminal evidence department. The eight included two Kuwaitis, five Bangladeshis and a Jordanian. Police said the men were arrested before they could send any forged work visas to their clients, most of them living in Bangladesh. It was unclear how much the group would charge for each visa. Col. Fares said the suspects were working on 4,000 visas and were planning to leave the country with large sums of money they thought they would make from "naive workers who would end up in the hands of airport security and immigration intelligence."

Kurdish rebels kill 4, injure 7

ANKARA (AP) — Separatist Kurdish insurgents killed four people and wounded seven others in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Saturday. The guerrillas opened fire on a passenger bus near Sirvan township north of the Iraqi border Friday evening, killing four civilians and wounding seven, the report added. It said the Kurdish separatists torched six vehicles before escaping on foot. The military was reported to have begun an operation in the region to apprehend the assailants. Kurdish separatist guerrillas have been waging war since 1984 to set up an independent Kurdish state.

Sharif Zeid forming government following Masri's resignation

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, chief of the Royal Court, has launched intensive consultations with political leaders and parliamentary group representatives in an effort to form a new government after the resignation of Prime Minister Taher Masri, informed sources said Saturday. It was not immediately clear when an official announcement would be made over the appointment of Sharif Zeid as prime minister or when Mr. Masri would actually leave office. An official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, last

night indicated only that the announcement of Mr. Masri's resignation would be made in the next few days. The statement did not name a successor to Mr. Masri.

"The decision was taken after an assessment of the internal domestic situation Jordan in general and the cabinet situation in particular," according to the statement, which Petra said was issued by the Council of Ministers after a meeting Saturday.

Well-informed sources said that Mr. Masri officially resigned on Thursday and his government will continue to carry out its duties until Sharif Zeid finalises his cabinet.

The change in government was warranted by Mr. Masri's failed attempts to mend fences with parliament blocs before the reconvening of the regular session of Parliament in December.

Mr. Masri's differences with parliament blocs came to a feverish pitch after 49 parliamentarians signed a petition withdrawing confidence from the government last month. The petition, which constitutionally carries little weight, was signed by the 23 strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc, the 18-member Constitution Bloc and several independent and some Democratic Bloc members.

According to preliminary reac-



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker



Taher Masri

tions from parliamentary blocs Saturday, a new government headed by Sharif Zeid will be able to win the support of a majority in Parliament with a possible toning down of opposition from the Brotherhood Bloc, which refused to join the Masri government.

The Brotherhood contends that it cannot be part of any government which will negotiate

peace with Israel. Ahmad Qatish Al Azaideh, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, told the Jordan Times Saturday that the fundamentalist movement remained opposed to peace talks with Israel but its tacit support or opposition to a Sharif Zeid government hinged on enhanced public free-

(Continued on page 5)

Iran: Non-Libyan group claims Lockerbie bombing

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A previously unknown group said Saturday it planted the bomb that blew up a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland three years ago, and denied Libyan involvement. Iran's state-run radio reported. Tehran Radio said the claim came in a published statement "announcing the existence of the Revolutionary Arab Brigade Organisation."

It did not say where the statement was published. Nor did it provide any details on the group, including where it was based.

It was not clear why the Iranians would want to involve themselves, however peripherally, in the bombing issue.

American and Scottish legal authorities Thursday issued arrest warrants for two men identified as Libyan intelligence agents allegedly involved in the bombing of the Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, Dec. 21, 1988, in which 270 people were killed.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has been striving to improve relations with the West and shed the Islamic republic's reputation as a radical state that has sponsored terrorism.

But anti-Western Iranian radicals oppose Mr. Rafsanjani's bridge-building effort and have frequently called for attacks on the United States and its allies in an apparent attempt to discredit him.

They have seized on the moves against Libya as evidence that the West cannot be trusted.

Tehran Radio said the group "rejected American claims concerning Libyan involvement in that incident as baseless, and stressed that those allegations are within the framework of a pre-arranged Western plot aimed at compromising the countries of the steadfast Arab front."

"Based on reliable information held by the organisation, America is on the verge of im-

Jordan, Syria to draw up 'action plan'

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria have agreed to work together towards drawing up "an action plan" to be adopted by all Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to circumvent "Israeli attempts to undermine the peace process," a Jordanian minister said Sunday.

Speaking after what he described as "friendly and lengthy" talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa in Damascus, Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said the two sides had "a frank and objective discussion of issues awaiting Arab parties to the peace negotiations."

In a telephone interview from Damascus, Mr. Kabarti said there was "a total convergence in views between Jordan and Syria) on the basic issues."

He said further bilateral meetings would be held in Amman soon "to discuss procedural issues and other details... aimed at drawing up an action plan agreed upon by all concerned Arab parties."

Mr. Kabarti, who returns home Sunday, Thursday delivered a message to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zuhbi from Jordanian Premier Taher Masri. He also met with Syria's planning and tourism ministers Saturday.

According to informed sources, Mr. Kabarti's talks in Damascus were not disrupted by the reported resignation of Mr. Masri's government. The minister was asked to go ahead with his scheduled meeting with Mr. Sharaa Saturday without any change in his programme, the sources said.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said it had complained to Israeli army officers about the killing of the Irish soldier and the wounding of another after dark in the village of Taireh Friday.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen fired on a five-man patrol of Irish peacekeepers in their armoured personnel carrier as it returned after monitoring SLA movements.

The Israeli argument about what happened was "totally unconvincing," he added. Israel claims it is not responsible for actions of the SLA, which is trained, financed and equipped by the Jewish state.

An Israeli military source said on Friday an SLA patrol had encountered the Irish U.N. soldiers but could not identify them as peacekeepers as UNIFIL usually does not patrol in the area.

"The UNIFIL soldiers were in violation of the existing agreements and were patrolling in an area where in the recent past there were several clashes with guerrillas," the source added.

Taireh is about two kilometres inside the Israeli zone.

But Mr. Goksel said there were no agreements with the SLA ab-

Arafat says PLO will press peace efforts

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will continue to support Middle East peace talks despite a vote by the Israeli parliament rejecting any withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told diplomats Saturday.

"The Knesset resolution is very dangerous to peace... despite that, we will continue to cooperate with all forces... in order to establish a comprehensive and just settlement," he said. Mr. Arafat spoke at a reception marking the third anniversary of the proclamation of a Palestinian state.

The Knesset adopted a resolution Monday saying the strategic Golan, taken from Syria in 1967, was not negotiable.

Mr. Arafat said the opening of an Arab-Israeli conference in Madrid last month was only a first step.

"Great efforts will be needed to make it a success because of the Israeli government's intransigence and the Knesset resolution," he said.

A PLO spokesman said Saturday that the Palestinian delegation to the next round of the Middle East peace talks will be headed by Mr. Arafat.

The office was ordered closed last year when U.S. officials broke off dialogue with the PLO, saying it had failed to punish Mohammad Abbas, then an Executive Committee member, for masterminding a raid on an Israeli beach.

U.N. protests to Israel over killing of peacekeeper

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — The United Nations protested to Israel Saturday about the killing of an Irish soldier with its peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

Israel and its Lebanese militia allies, meanwhile, shelled villages in South Lebanon overnight and into Saturday, wounding one woman civilian, security sources said.

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Israel says Ashrawi will not be tried

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiator Hanan Ashrawi will not face trial for her alleged meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, an Israeli cabinet minister said Saturday.

Police have recommended that the government prosecute Dr. Ashrawi, one of the best-known Palestinian activists, for the offence, which carries a maximum three-year jail sentence in Israel.

News of the recommendation came Friday. The move was condemned by Palestinian leaders and liberal Israelis as harmful for the delicate U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

The leak from the investigation, which was started long before last month's peace talks in Madrid, appeared to embarrass government officials, who refused to confirm reports on the file's contents.

On Saturday, Health Minister Ehud Olmert, of the ruling hard-line Likud Bloc, labelled the recommendation "wrong from the public point of view, from the point of view of timing, and also not practical."

"It's of the kind of things that are said, but not done," said Mr. Olmert, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Speaking on Israeli army radio, Mr. Olmert indicated that attention given to the recommendation was harmful in itself.

"In the end, Ashrawi will not be put on trial. And since this will not happen, it's better not to declare things that should not take place. The ball is now transferred from the police to someone who will use wider considerations," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

Mustafa Khalil advises peace negotiators to use Israeli tactics

CAIRO (Agencies) — A veteran of Egypt's peace talks with Israel in 1979 has advised the new generation of Arab negotiators to use the same tactics as the Israelis — be well-briefed and extremely polite.

"He (the Arab negotiator) should use (with the Israeli) his own method — be utterly calm and extremely polite in the way he talks," Mustafa Khalil, Egyptian prime minister from 1978 to 1980, told October magazine in an interview published on Saturday.

Arab delegations opened direct talks with Israel in Madrid two weeks ago.

Mr. Khalil said the Egyptians prepared for their peace talks by setting up teams of experts to play the role of the Israelis against their own government.

"We used to leave these experts complete freedom to express their points of view so that after a short time, they began to say roughly the same thing that we would later hear from the Israelis," Mr. Khalil said.

He warned Arabs not to be provoked by Israeli statements outside the conference hall.

"The Israelis know we pay too much attention to statements they make and that very often we think with our emotions... I call on the Arab negotiators to ignore these statements," Mr. Khalil said.

Talks between Israel and Egypt appeared blocked several times before they culminated in a treaty in March 1979, 16 months after the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat offered peace to the Jewish state.

A top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday that Israel would not allow the formation of a Palestinian state in its occupied territories.

The chief of Mr. Shamir's staff, Yossi Ben-Aharon, said it was too early to discuss final arrangements between Israel and the Palestinians, but he ruled out an independent state.

"This government has clearly declared that it will not permit any kind of sovereignty west of the River Jordan," said Mr. Ben-Aharon.

"In other words there will be no Palestinian state in Palestine west of the River Jordan under any circumstances," he told Israel Radio.

Israelis and Palestinians have agreed that the peace talks launched in Madrid last month will focus on an interim five-year period in which Arab residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be given autonomy.

In the third year of autonomy, negotiations will begin on the final status of the area. Palestinians hope to form an independent state in the occupied territories with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Friday declared a "battle for peace" in the Middle East that he said should lead to ending Israeli occupation of Arab lands and easing regional tensions. The remarks came in a state-

(Continued on page 5)

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Truce holds as Kurds and Iraq near agreement

ZAKHO, Iraq (Agencies) — Guns are silent for the first time in nearly two weeks in northern Iraq as a fragile truce is holding after renewed fighting between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi troops.

But an incident Thursday night in this northern Iraqi town of 20,000 was an omen of bloody account settling as Iraq and the rebels edged towards an accommodation with the onset of winter.

Two rebels were killed and three others wounded in their car by two gunmen firing from a speeding auto in front of the allied military coordination centre. The centre keeps a watch on northern Iraq following the withdrawal of a U.S.-led Western force four months ago.

A Kurdish military commander in Zakho, Nazir Barzanji, played down the shooting, saying it was a family feud. But another Kurdish official, who did not want to be named, said one of the victims was a former member of the Iraqi secret police.

The incident came on the eve of the implementation of an agreement reached earlier in the week between the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Front, an alliance of eight rebel groups. Kurdish television said the agreement was to go into effect Saturday.

Anwar Rashid, a Kurdish official, said that under the agreement, the rebels, known as the Peshmerga, would move five kilometres out of northern Iraqi cities. Iraqi troops, secret police and the ruling Baath Party would still be barred from the cities but government officials and ordinary police would come in.

The Peshmerga took control of the cities after a 12,000-strong, U.S.-led Western force moved into northern Iraq to enable the return of about 1.5 million Kurds who fled to Turkey and Iran after their rebellion in March was crushed by the army.

The Western force withdrew to Turkey in July and now it is limited to 48 warplanes patrolling the Iraqi skies north of the 36th parallel.

During the past two weeks, several Kurdish villages came under mortar fire or helicopter attacks, and the truce was brittle. There were clashes as late as Thursday, when Mr. Rashid said

the village of Topzawa, between Irbil and Mosul, had come under Iraqi mortar fire.

U.S. Army Colonel Dick Naab, the senior allied officer at the military coordination centre, said the situation appeared to be calming down.

In return for the Peshmerga withdrawal from towns, the Iraqi government agreed to lift its economic blockade of the Kurdish area. The blockade had caused acute food and fuel shortages and left thousands of government employees without salaries.

On Friday, the gasoline stations in Zakho were still closed. In the old market of Zakho, there is a lucrative trade in Western relief supplies rushed in during the exodus. Offered for sale are U.S. camouflage raincoats, jackets, shoes and other items of clothing.

Cans of powdered milk, some marked with Kuwaiti labels, and tea or vegetable oil coming from Turkey cost 10 times what they used to before the war.

State-subsidised staples such as sugar and rice provided by the Baghdad government have been halved since the start of the blockade, according to Kurdish officials.

The autonomy talks held since April have bogged down over Kurdish claims on the size of a Kurdish zone and whether it would include the oil centre of Kirkuk. There are also disagreements among Kurds over whether Baghdad would live up to any autonomy agreement.

Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani says lawlessness has become a problem in Iraqi Kurdistan. Mr. Barzani blames the breakup of traditional Kurdish communities and rivalry between different rebel groups.

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) chief says it is a question of Kurdish claims on the size of a Kurdish zone and whether it would include the oil centre of Kirkuk. There are also disagreements among Kurds over whether Baghdad would live up to any autonomy agreement.

"We Kurds are a law-abiding people but there is a growing lack of respect for authority here," he told Reuters.

"People lost their independence, their traditional values, their identity," he said, denouncing Iraq's government policy of forcibly relocating hundreds of thousands of Kurds from traditional villages to specially-built

urban settlements.

"The process created conditions ripe for deviant behaviour." Eight Kurdish political parties are backed by guerrilla armies in northern Iraq. The largest has several hundred thousand armed men, the smallest a few hundred.

Peshmerga mix with armed civilians on city streets. With the Peshmerga uniform a suit of traditional Kurdish clothes, it is difficult even for Kurds to distinguish a guerrilla soldier from a civilian carrying a Kalashnikov automatic rifle.

City police are often challenged and intimidated by armed men whose affiliations are unknown. Political assassination, car theft and burglary have become commonplace.

Kurdish leaders admit that Peshmerga have been responsible for some of these incidents. Kurdish political parties do discipline their own members, sometimes harshly. But they are reluctant to go after other parties' members, no matter what the offence, for fear of sparking civil war.

"Kurds are feeling a lot of freedom now, but it is freedom without law. People are killing and stealing because they can get away with it," said Shalaw Ali Askari, an advisor to Jalal Talabani, Kurdistan's other major political leader.

The murder of two Iraqi soldiers by unknown assailants on the edge of Erbil recently led government forces to shell the city. One civilian was killed and 27 wounded.

But the massacre of 60 Iraqi soldiers who had surrendered during fighting in the city of Sulaimaniyah on Oct. 7 added urgency to the issue of law and order for Kurdish leaders.

Investigations suggest members of several political parties were involved. Both Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani have promised that the culprits will be caught and punished.

Mr. Barzani says that while political pluralism is a good thing the Kurds face a major challenge in the lawlessness.

"The issue is whether we can control our society, whether we can provide security to our people. They must be safe from the government's secret police and from Kurdish forces."

Nusseibeh advocates olive-branch strategy towards Israelis

NEW YORK (AP) — A prominent Palestinian moderate said Friday that his fellow Palestinians should work to convince Israelis they have more to gain than lose from peace and should vote out their current right-wing government.

Sari Nusseibeh, an adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team, said the key to the outcome of the peace talks that began last month in Madrid will be the next Israeli elections, which must be held by November 1992.

Dr. Nusseibeh sees little chance for the peace talks to succeed as long as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government — flatly opposed to any return of territories occupied in the 1967 war — remains in power.

"The Palestinians need... to help the Israeli voter make the right decision when the critical moment comes," Dr. Nusseibeh said in an interview with the Associated Press. "The Israeli voter is going to determine whether we go towards peace or continued conflict."

Dr. Nusseibeh said it is also important for the international community to apply pressure to Israel during the peace process.

This, he said, would demonstrate to Israeli voters the costs of refusing to make concessions for peace.

"There has to be pressure

on the one hand, but you also have to show there is an opportunity of real peace with benefits to gain."

Dr. Nusseibeh and other Palestinian activists have formed a committee to mobilise grassroots support for what he calls the "olive-branch strategy" towards the Israelis. That does not mean ending the four-year Palestinian uprising, he said, but emphasising non-violent resistance to Israeli occupation.

After the U.S. and Soviet-sponsored peace talks got under way, Dr. Nusseibeh joined a march in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Several thousands of Palestinians carried olive branches and chanted slogans supporting peace as well as an independent state.

Dr. Nusseibeh said he hopes to organise a joint peace march by Israelis and Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem when he returns home from a U.S. visit.

Dr. Nusseibeh was in New York on Friday to address a luncheon attended by about 50 prominent media figures and Jewish leaders. It was sponsored by the U.S. branch of the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, which has tried to bridge the gap between Israelis and Palestinians.

Dr. Nusseibeh, 42, a philosophy professor, directs a research centre in Arab East



Sari Nusseibeh

Jerusalem. His father was a former Jordanian defence minister.

In 1986, Dr. Nusseibeh was severely beaten by a group of Palestinian militants after delivering a lecture on tolerance.

Early in 1991, he was jailed for three months without charge during the Gulf war by Israeli authorities on suspicion of being an Iraqi spy.

During his detention, Dr. Nusseibeh put the finishing touches on a book that he co-authored with Mark Heller, a Canadian-born Israeli defence analyst.

The book, "No Trumpet, No Drums: A Two-State Settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," offers a joint blueprint for a peace accord.

In the book, being published in Hebrew and Arabic editions, the two scholars worked out solutions to such problems as security arrangements, refugees, Jewish settlements and the status of Jerusalem.

Bush vows continued U.S. forces in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush accused Iraq Friday of continuing to defy U.N. resolutions by concealing weapons, failing to return all Kuwaiti detainees and violating Kuwait's northern border to retrieve equipment.

Mr. Bush told Congress the United States would "continue to maintain an appropriate level of forces in the region for as long as required by the situation in Iraq."

About 50,000 U.S. troops remain in the Gulf area, including those on warships and those participating in a refugee protection programme for Kurds in Turkey.

The president's accusations came in his monthly report to House of Representatives and Senate leaders on the status of Iraqi compliance with the cease-fire resolutions adopted at the end of the Gulf war.

"Iraq has continued to use concealment, deception and denial of unrestricted access to prevent or inhibit U.N. inspections. Despite these efforts, the U.S. teams have uncovered additional evidence of these weapons systems," Mr. Bush said in his letter.

Mr. Bush cited "unambiguous evidence that Iraq had a comprehensive programme, with a very large technical work force and infrastructure, to design and build nuclear weapons."

Mr. Bush said 60 long-range Iraqi missiles have been destroyed by U.N. inspectors "but we have reason to believe that several hundred others remain unaccounted for and unacknowledged by Iraq."

The president also told Congress he was concerned that "Iraq has not yet carried out its obligations... to return all detained Kuwaiti and third-country nationals."

Kuwait eases boycott of firms dealing with Israel

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has relaxed its boycott of Western companies dealing with Israel hoping to attract more tenders for post-Gulf war reconstruction, according to a senior official.

Ibrahim Al Ghanem, director-general of customs and excise, said Kuwait had "eased its boycott regulations and restrictions to remove a stumbling block in its cooperation with American and Western companies."

Diplomats said the emirate had not completely lifted the restrictions. But companies bidding for contracts under Kuwait's war recovery drive would no longer face too many searching questions about commercial ties with the Jewish state.

"There has been a de facto loosening of the diligence with which Kuwait applies the Arab-Israeli boycott measures," a Western diplomat told Reuters. "They no longer feel the need to take it seriously."

Mr. Ghanem, who also heads Kuwait's Arab Boycott of Israel Office, said firms with Israeli capital were still barred.

"The Kuwaiti authorities are cautious. They don't want to find themselves in a political dilemma," Mr. Ghanem said.

Hundreds of Western companies have been seeking lucrative reconstruction contracts in Kuwait since a U.S.-led Western and Arab alliance liberated the emirate from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February.

But under rules issued by the Damascus-based boycott office — an affiliate of the 21-member Arab League — members are required to ban any dealings with companies that have commercial links to Israel.

Thousands of companies have figured on the Arab blacklist, established in the 1950s and changed from time to time. There is a primary boycott

which bans any dealing with Israeli companies or firms supported by Israeli capital and a secondary boycott related to firms regarded as actively sustaining the Jewish state's economy or its war machine through direct investment.

The world's leading industrial nations have pushed for a suspension of the entire blacklist system in return for an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's right-wing government is pressing on with its settlements policy in spite of Middle East peace talks. But Kuwait has been urging its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners to relax the secondary boycott rules to "pay back some of the favour" owed to the Western allies who fought Iraq.

Mr. Ghanem said: "The boycott of Israel will remain as it is. It is linked to the peace settlement. Ending the boycott is an important card which will be used as an incentive to push the peace process."

Kuwait softened its hard line towards Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) backed Iraq during its occupation of the emirate. The PLO's support enraged Kuwait and other Gulf states, which cut off aid in retaliation.

Echoing the conciliatory attitude towards the Jewish state, columnist Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah, a member of the ruling family and marketing director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, urged the emirate to make peace with Israel.

"Why do we continue to hold enmity and hostility for those who indirectly stood with us in our crisis?" he asked in an editorial published in Al Siyassah newspaper last week.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese premier meets with Kuwaiti emir

BEIJING (AP) — The emir of Kuwait on Saturday thanked Chinese Premier Li Peng for China's support of international efforts to end Iraq's occupation of the emirate. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Al Sabah, was scheduled to meet Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin. Kuwaiti officials said the emir will depart Beijing on Sunday for a visit to Moscow. Mr. Li extended a warm welcome to the emir during his meeting at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's government. During a photo session before holding private talks, the emir told Mr. Li the people of Kuwait appreciated China's support of "international legitimacy" during the Gulf crisis. Mr. Li said it was an important accomplishment that firefighters have extinguished the fires at all oil wells in Kuwait that were set ablaze during the Gulf war. Chinese firefighters were among the teams from around the world that worked to put out the fires in Kuwait. The state-run Xinhua News Agency reported from Kuwait City that the Chinese firefighters departed from home Friday after completing their work in Kuwait. The emir's two-day visit to Beijing is his second trip to China in less than a year, reflecting Chinese interest in developing strong ties in the Middle East and Kuwait's desire to enhance relations with countries that have clout in the United Nations.

Kuwait container port regains full capacity

SHUABA, Kuwait (AP) — A ceremony Saturday marked completion of repairs to Kuwait's main container port, restoring it to full operations for the first time since the Gulf war. "Shuaba container terminal has regained its former operating efficiency, with greater capacity and a greater determination to bring back to life the commercial sector of this country through this vital artery," said Abdul Rahman Al Nibari, director general of the emirate's public ports authority. Mr. Nibari said the port was partly activated in March shortly after the liberation of the emirate by U.S.-led coalition forces, to receive equipment needed to fight oil well fires. He said it cost \$10 million to \$15 million to replace the port's handling equipment and clear away sunken ships and unexploded ordnance.

Bandar gives \$100,000 gift to U.S. trooper

FARMINGTON, Connecticut (AP) — A Connecticut couple got the whole fairy tale Friday when a Saudi prince gave them a wedding gift of \$100,000. Robert Snow, a staff sergeant in the Connecticut national guard, suffered serious injuries in an explosion while serving in the Gulf war in March. As he lay wounded in a Washington, D.C. hospital bed, he shared his dreams for the future with a new friend, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States. Sgt. Snow, 29, had undergone more surgery than any other wounded Gulf veteran, undergoing 22 operations to reconstruct bones and make skin and bone crafts as a result of having his left arm shattered in an explosion. Prince Bandar was in the same hospital with a bad back. What Sgt. Snow did not realise was that Prince Bandar planned to help him make his dreams come true. "I never expected it. We were completely floored," Sgt. Snow said after Prince Bandar whisked into Connecticut and handed the couple a \$100,000 cheque just before their wedding reception.

U.S. asks India not to make Iran nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has asked India not to go ahead with a reported plan to supply a nuclear reactor to Iran, the State Department said Friday. Deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian raised the issue with India's ambassador on Thursday and Friday. "The United States has urged all nuclear supplier countries, including India, to avoid any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran, even under safeguards, because there is not adequate evidence that Iran is genuinely committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy," Mr. Boucher said. He said the government was aware from press reports about the possibility of a deal between India and Iran. Mr. Boucher noted there have been recent public statements by Iranian officials that call into question the sincerity of Iran's commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and raise the possibility that Iran might misuse civilian nuclear materials.

Libya bans hiring of most foreign workers

ROME (AP) — Libya Friday announced it has banned the hiring of most foreign workers and will require most of those already in the country to leave when their contracts expire. Libyan radio said the ban, which excludes Palestinians and certain specialists such as doctors and teachers, came in a decree issued by Vocational Training Minister Matuq Mohammad Matuq. The announced ban falls short of the order by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi that led to the mass expulsion of thousands of foreign workers in 1985 who refused to accept Libyan citizenship. Those expulsions, which also excluded Palestinians, raised tensions between Libya and its Arab neighbours. For the last few years, Libya has been trying to mend fences with its neighbours, opening the borders with Tunisia and Egypt. Libyan radio did not cite the reasons for the new ban on hiring or rehiring foreign workers. It said the ban excluded teachers at universities and other institutions of higher learning, doctors, specialists in all medical fields, nurses who deal with contagious diseases, science teachers in intermediate schools, accountancy experts and computer programmers. The radio said that under the decree foreign workers not exempted could complete their current contracts but there was no possibility of renewing them.

Kuwait bank settles West Virginia claim

CHARLESTON (AP) — The Kuwait Asia Bank has reached a settlement in a bank case that will permit a Logan county woman to keep about \$88,000, the woman's lawyer said Friday. Eileen L. Charandy reached the settlement with the bank Thursday, said her lawyer, Elliot Hicks. Eleven other people remain as defendants in the civil suit. Mr. Hicks said. The bank, however, will recoup more than \$300,000 in cash and cashier's cheques, plus two 1991 automobiles Ms. Charandy purchased. Mr. Hicks said, Kuwait Asia Bank sued Ms. Charandy earlier this year after discovering that bank employees had wired a total of about \$450,000 to a West Virginia bank in July for her.

Afghan rebels conclude landmark discussions

MOSCOW (R) — Ground-breaking talks between Afghan rebels and the Soviet Union ended with the rebels promising to release some Soviet prisoners of war and Moscow pledging to withdraw military experts helping the government.

The two sides, enemies for 13 years of often savage conflict, also agreed to set up a joint commission to promote further negotiations.

A joint eight-point statement issued Friday evening after five days of talks began with a denunciation of the "unconstitutional" Soviet military intervention of 1979, ended nine years later by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Rebel delegation head Burhanuddin Rabbani told reporters the first direct Mujahideen-Soviet peace talks had been "a useful start." Three radical rebel groups boycotted the talks however.

The joint statement reiterated a call for establishment of an interim government to oversee elections, as recommended by the United Nations. But the statement referred to "an interim Islamic government."

Afghan President Najibullah's

government has long dropped all association with communism and sought to portray its leaders as good Muslims. But the "Islamic" label has been a constant hallmark of the rebels, whose main parties portray their struggle as one between the forces of Islam and atheism.

Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, who met the rebel team for a second time just before their departure for Saudi Arabia Friday night, denied to reporters that there was any significance in the term.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Byelovogov likewise stressed to TASS news agency that the reference to an interim government was in accordance with the U.N. proposals.

While the need for an interim government is broadly accepted, the rebels refuse to countenance any role in it for Mr. Najibullah. The former secret police chief says he is ready for negotiations but refuses to step down.

The Kremlin backed its former protégé in this, but recently indicated it might be prepared to see him step down. Further evidence of fading support came in the

statement's use of the word "Mujahadeen" to describe the rebels.

It also used the phrase "Kabul regime" for Mr. Najibullah's government. Mr. Rutskoi said this wording had been the choice of the rebels and in the context referred only to their viewpoint.

"It is obvious to everyone that the relations which exist inside Afghanistan have to be reviewed, because the bloodshed just cannot go on," he said.

He stressed that Moscow would not interfere again and the make-up of the interim government was the Afghans' business.

The rebels' delegation leader said he interpreted the joint statement as acceptance by Moscow of the rebel argument that all Afghan governments since the leftist revolution of 1978 had been imposed from outside.

Moscow had already pledged to stop all arms supplies to Kabul by Jan. 1.

Mr. Rutskoi said he had already ordered a halt, especially of the devastating Scud missiles. His writ, however, runs only in the Russian Republic and it was not immediately clear whether he had the authority over supplies from the Soviet government.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Badabols
17:50 La culture on chuchers
18:15 L'ecole des fans
18:25 News in French
18:35 Carrot de notes
18:50 News in Hebrew
19:00 News in Arabic
19:10 Golden Girls
19:20 Murder She Wrote
19:30 News in English
19:40 This Man, This Woman

PRAYER TIMES

06:35 Fajr
07:54 Sunrise (Starts) Dhuhr
11:19 Dhuhr
14:19 Asr
16:45 Maghrib
18:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish Tel: 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel: 65785
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 67440

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrence Church Tel: 62366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541

Anglican Church Tel: 623583, Tel: 623543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 773261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel: 771751

Armenian International Church Tel: 685326

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Tel: 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel: 823624, 65-9932

Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 11/25

Aqaba 15/29

Deserts 9/26

Jordan Valley 18/29

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Marjan 776046
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 690448
Dr. Bashir Bader 843662
Dr. Nidal Issa 691011
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Natrunkh pharmacy 62672
Shamsan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Issam Al Saleh (-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:
Dr. Maysoon Hanna (-)
Khaleel pharmacy 983417

AMMAN:
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Emergency Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Emergency Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 6641714
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munshir Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafish 77511126
Army, Merfa 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarga National Hospital (09)800260
Rw Sima Hospital (09)86732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Amman (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Beirut

Mounting debts drive woman to suicide

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 40-year-old woman from Jabal Luweibeh committed suicide Friday evening after swallowing a large amount of medicine, and sources close to the bereaved family said that she was under severe stress because of mounting debts.

Samira Abu Ghazaleh swallowed the medicine after being informed that she was wanted by the police following numerous complaints by citizens that she had issued cheques that bounced due to lack of sufficient bank deposits, according to the sources.

Ms. Abu Ghazaleh had borrowed large sums of money and given cheques without having any bank deposits because she had lost most of the money in business, the sources added.

Police sources said that a great number of people had entrusted their savings with Ms. Abu Ghazaleh, who conducted various types of businesses and shared with them the profits. Once the debts accumulated and people started demanding their savings back, Ms. Abu Ghazaleh found no way of coping with the situation except by committing suicide, said these sources, who preferred anonymity.

One of the creditors told the Jordan Times that he had given Ms. Abu Ghazaleh \$5000 in cash one week before her death in exchange for a cheque to be cashed in 12 days. Later, the cheque bounced, he said.

Some sources estimated the total amount of Ms. Abu Ghazaleh's debt to be JD 500,000, but there was no confirmation as to the amount from police.

Following her death, the police sealed her home and took away all documents and papers that might shed light on her activities and business operations. Police sources said that the dying woman was rushed to hospital for stomach pumping to no avail.

The police were reported to be holding wide-scale investigations into the case.

Group claims Pan Am blast

(Continued from page 1)

dent, we cannot isolate this U.S. conduct from the policy being pursued by the U.S. administration to terrorise countries in order to silence them."

Britain will make a formal request to Libya Sunday for the extradition of the two men charged with the bombing, a diplomat in Tripoli said.

A Western diplomat contacted by telephone from Tunis on Saturday said Britain would make its approach through the Italian embassy in Tripoli, which represents British interests.

The two Libyans were named as Abdul Baset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, 39, chief of the Libyan intelligence agency's airline security section, and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, 35, an intelligence agent who worked for Libyan airlines in Malta.

The diplomat said Libyan state news media had not mentioned the charges and there was no sign of the anti-Western demonstrations in Tripoli that have accompanied past U.S. or British criticism of Libya.

Neither Britain nor the United States has an extradition treaty with Libya. Britain cut ties in 1984 after a British policewoman was shot dead outside the Libyan embassy in London.

Libya denied Friday that it was behind the bombing of Flight 103. It challenged the United States and Britain to prove their accusation in an impartial international court.

In Lebanon, a statement by a previously unknown group using a similar name to that mentioned by Tehran radio later claimed it was responsible for the bombing.

The Arab Revolutionary Brigade claimed responsibility in 1985 for two bomb attacks at cafes in Kuwait in which 11 people died and 89 others wounded. In 1983, it claimed responsibility for the killing of two Jordanian embassy employees in Madrid.

The group also said it had killed Israeli diplomat Yacov Barimantov in Paris in 1982 and planted a bomb that caused a Gulf Air jetliner to crash near Abu Dhabi the same year. The United Arab Emirates never confirmed that sabotage was involved in the explosion.

In the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, a caller claiming to speak for the hitherto unknown Arab Revolution Brigades-Foreign Sphere-Lebanon branch said the group was behind the Pan Am 103 bombing.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Saturday views photos depicting His Majesty King Hussein's achievements (Petra photo)

University displaying photographs of King Hussein's achievements

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three day exhibition marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday opened at the University of Jordan Saturday, displaying a large collection of photographs about the Jordanian military and activities of members of the Royal family.

The main features of the exhibition are photos depicting King Hussein's different stages of life and activities as well as his political meetings with heads of Arab and foreign na-

tions. Also on display are photographs of military equipment depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The three day exhibition, which was opened by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh, displays a set of documentary films and video cassettes featuring development in Jordan under King Hussein's rule.

Dr. Gharaibeh also opened an exhibition of the works of university students. On display

are plastic art, sculpture, artificial flowers and others.

Armed Forces brass bands toured various parts of the campus at the University of Jordan playing music on the occasion as students held folkloric dances and songs marking the King's birthday.

Sunday, the university will organise a tattoo of the retreat march organised by the Armed Forces, with the brass band playing martial music.

Special fund created to be used to promote tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee set up by the Ministry of Tourism to stimulate the tourism industry in Jordan has decided to create a special fund to spend on the process of promoting tourism and marketing Jordan abroad, according to an announcement by ministry Secretary-General Nasri Atallah.

The private sector will provide most of the monies for the fund, which will be placed under the supervision of a council chaired by the minister of tourism, said Mr. Atallah in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The private sector will be represented through tour operators and members representing the hotels and tourist and travel offices as well as Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier and the Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT), Mr. Atallah said.

So far, the Ministry of Tourism had been spearheading efforts to stimulate tourism, but now the leadership will be offered to the private sector, especially organisations with vast experience in marketing to seek new markets abroad, Mr. Atallah said.

Mr. Atallah last month announced that plans had been worked out for carrying out wide scale campaigns in Italy, Spain and other European countries to market Jordan and bring in more and more tourist groups to the Kingdom.

According to Mr. Atallah, the Ministry of Tourism will take part in an exhibition organised by tourist offices abroad to boost the country's marketing campaign. He said that the exhibition, which will be held in London towards the end of this year, will display various aspects of tourist attractions in a number of countries.

The Ministry of Tourism will have a wing to display Jordan archaeological treasures and there will be officials to conduct contacts with foreign offices and other countries participating in the exhibition, Mr. Atallah said. He said that the ministry's committee entrusted with stimu-



Nasri Atallah

Kingdom.

lating tourism in the Kingdom has also decided to participate in the Berlin Tourism Exhibition next year and in another tourism exhibition to be organised in Italy, where a Jordanian campaign to promote tourism last year was successful.

The Ministry of Tourism's current campaigns have been successful, especially in Finland thanks to the major role played in this regard by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Mr. Atallah said. As a result of the efforts there, Aqaba is now receiving two weekly flights direct from Finland, each carrying at least 200 tourists from the Scandinavian countries.

The tourism season in Aqaba lasts until at least next April, according to Ministry of tourism officials.

In order to boost the campaign, Mr. Atallah said the Ministry of Tourism has invited journalists and writers from various parts of the world to visit Jordan's tourist areas.

Mr. Atallah said that the ministry's committee has prepared and distributed leaflets, posters and other informational materials about Jordan including documentary films and slides depicting various tourist sites.

Ministry of Tourism officials said that revenues from tourism reached JD340 million in 1990, up from JD 315 million in 1989 and JD 321 in 1988.

Rights group reports violations

(Continued from page 1)

It devoted a special section to the Feb. 13 bombing of the Ameriya civil defence shelter in Baghdad, in which 200-300 civilians reportedly were killed. The United States claimed the facility was being used as a military command-and-control centre.

Middle East Watch complained that there was no conclusive evidence to label the shelter a military target. Also, it noted that under international law the shelter was a civil defence facility which should not have been bombed except after warning.

Turning to the allies' choice of target, Middle East Watch criticised air attacks on food, agricultural and water-treatment facilities.

Among the targets listed in the report were government food warehouses in Baghdad, a new dairy factory north of Basra, flour milling facilities and water treatment installations.

The allies, it said, virtually destroyed Iraq's electrical system, including four of the country's five hydroelectric facilities.

It noted that crippling Iraq's electrical production impeded the military's ability to communicate and had an effect on war-related production. But, "the cost to the civilian population ... was severe," it said.

It said lack of refrigeration and the impairment of Iraq's mechanised, irrigation-based agriculture exacerbated shortages of food that had been brought on by United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990,

invasion of Kuwait.

Also according to the report, the country's electricity-dependent water purification and sewage treatment facilities were crippled, creating a serious health hazard.

It quoted U.N. relief workers as saying in May that the "vicious circle" of poor hygiene, contaminated water and poor diet, left 100,000 Iraqi children under one year of age vulnerable to diarrhoea and dehydration.

The document criticised attacks that targeted civilian vehicles on Iraqi highways, primarily the Western routes to Jordan. It listed at least three attacks during which the allies sought to destroy Iraqi mobile missiles but wound up hitting convoys of Sudanese and Asian workers trying to flee the bombardment, killing scores of them.

Also, it reported several attacks on bedouin tents in western Iraq that left at least 46 people killed, including a number of infants and children.

Middle East Watch praised the low level of Gulf allied military casualties but said a U.S. reliance on unguided bombs may have added to the civilian death toll.

Middle East Watch calls on the Pentagon and other allied commands, first to reveal the extent to which dumb bombs were dropped in populated urban areas and second to explain how such use accords with the customary-law duty to "take all feasible precautions" to avoid civilian harm," the report said.

The international organisation, an affiliate of Human Rights Watch, was established in 1989 to

promote "observance of internationally recognised human rights in the Middle East."

The group also said military censorship of news media added to misperceptions about the Gulf war.

The report said that while military briefers stated that 90 per cent of smart weapons hit their targets, these precision-guided bombs accounted for only 7,400 of the 84,200 tons of munitions dropped by the allies

in the Middle East.

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in the Middle East.

Central Bank of Jordan eases currency transfer restrictions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday introduced new measures further facilitating the transfer of non-Jordanian currency abroad, a move described by banking sources as wise and in the right direction.

The CBJ statement said that the ceiling for annual allocations for people travelling abroad for study, medical treatment, pilgrimage, helping needy families or to cover expenses abroad has been raised to JD 10,000 worth of foreign currency, up from JD 5,000.

Subscriptions to foreign magazines, newspapers and

scientific periodicals issued abroad will be JD 1000 worth of foreign currency, up from JD 500 annually, according to the statement which said that the CBJ has authorised the Jordanian banks and financial institutions to issue foreign currency on its behalf.

The statement also announced that the banks and financial institutions are free of restrictions imposed on them by CBJ over the past three years. They can now sell the fixed sums of foreign currency for the above mentioned purposes at their discretion, without referring to the CBJ for

approval, the statement said.

The move was seen as a measure to end rumours in Jordan about imminent devaluation of the Jordanian currency in the course of carrying out the economic restructuring programme as agreed on with the International Monetary Fund.

Banking sources said that the rumours adversely affected their banking operations in the past. Less restrictions on bank operations, they said, means more foreign currency available, a move that will boost the value of the Jordanian dinar.

The statement said that the

new measures were taken in harmony with the CBJ's policies aimed at gradually removing all restrictions and forms of control over foreign currency in the Kingdom.

Jordan imposed the restrictions in 1988 to stem a currency flight triggered by a dinar devaluation and to safeguard Central Bank foreign currency deposits.

Foreign currency reserves have been boosted by the return of Jordanians from the Gulf and a temporary freeze on repayment of some of Jordan's \$8 billion foreign debt.

New restriction tightens allied blockade of Aqaba

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Repeated appeals and pointed reminders have done little to ease the continuing "interdiction" of Aqaba-bound vessels by the American-led naval fleet enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq. If anything, the enforcers have suddenly tightened their procedures, shipping officials said Saturday.

The latest addition to the requirements laid down by the warships patrolling the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba is a condition that even fully loaded chartered ships make their cargo fully accessible for inspection on high seas — a process which deprive the vessels of using their full cargo capacity, leading to higher freight costs and in turn higher prices for the consumer, officials said.

The first victim of the new rule, according to the Shipping Agents Association of Jordan, was a Romanian vessel carrying rice destined for Iraq.

M.V. Calangren, loaded with 7,470 tonnes of Indian rice, was intercepted at the Tiran Straits on Nov. 10 by the enforcers of the blockade on Iraq, the association said. The

vessel, whose cargo has been approved by the United Nations Sanctions Committee, has been lying outside Tiran since then, unable to meet the inspectors' demand that "all cargo on board" is made accessible, the association said.

Rearranging the bagged rice to allow access to the entire cargo hold "is an impossibility to perform at sea away from any nearby ports," the association said in a memorandum to Lloyds List International, London.

The memo pointed out that 93 chartered ships with full bagged cargo had called at Aqaba since Jan. 1, 1991, and none of them were asked to have full cargo accessibility. "Suddenly and without advance warning the U.S. naval force commenced strictly enforcing the 100 per cent accessibility rule," according to the memo.

According to Sufian Mheisan, an official of the association, the rice aboard the Calangren is part of a 30,000-tonne rice consignment approved by the U.N. Sanctions Committee after the proper notification in July 1990 under paragraph 20 of Resolution 667, which exempts food and medicine from the international embargo against Iraq.

What makes the experience of the Calangren alarming to the shipping sector and importers is the possibility that hundreds of ships which have already been loaded or are en route to Aqaba could be subject to the same 100 per cent accessibility rule.

Mr. Mheisan estimated that the new requirement would deprive ships of almost 30 per cent of their cargo space, which will have to be paid for by the charterers. He said if the enforcers were to apply the new rule to the letter, Jordan will end up losing a minimum of JD 35 million as "inspection surcharges" — JD 25 million on vessels carrying containers and loose cargo and JD 10 million on chartered vessels.

Jordan has repeatedly brought up to the U.S. the issue of the direct and indirect impact of the difficult conditions imposed by the enforcers of the blockade in the Red Sea.

Several agreements and guidelines were reached, but, as one shipping agent put it, "a new condition and requirement is introduced every time we manage to meet another."

Informed sources said the consignment of rice aboard the Romanian vessel was imported by a Jordanian private sector establishment for export to

Iraq.

According to statistics released by the U.S. Navy, since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq on Aug. 6, 1990 — four days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait — the naval task force has intercepted over 12,000 merchant ships, boarded over 2,500 and turned away 140 (the number of those "turned away" does not include those ordered to unload "suspect cargo" elsewhere in the Red Sea).

A U.S. Navy spokesman said in October that despite the end of the Gulf war in February the number of interceptions has not decreased. The enforcement measures were tightened and the frequency of interceptions has gone up "simply because shippers are feeling more comfortable with sailing to this part of the world while insurance rates are going down," according to the spokesman.

The stringent enforcement of the blockade has caused severe hardships for Jordanian businessmen who have been paying additional costs for transshipment and industrialists whose production schedules were thrown into disarray because of delays in getting raw materials.

Role of cooperatives in increasing food production in Arab World to be discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on the role of cooperatives in the Arab World to help ensure food security will open Sunday with the participation of specialists from Jordan and Arab states, according to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), which is organising the seminar in cooperation with the Arab Cooperative Federation and the Arab Federation for Food Industries.

JCO Director General Jamal Bedour said in a statement on the eve of the seminar that the issue of food is one of the most important subjects in the Arab World at the present time, which has proved incapable of producing sufficient food for its growing population and has been increasing its reliance on food imports from abroad.

Ways to promote techniques designed to boost food production and farming work and narrowing the food gap will be the main focus at the three-day seminar, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Bedour said.

The participants, he said, will also direct their attention to the role which cooperatives can play in ensuring food security and will discuss 15 research and working papers dealing with this subject.

Agricultural cooperatives and

their food production, the creation of agricultural industry and the role of cooperative societies in the occupied Arab territories, the role of marketing in promoting cooperatives operations, positive and negative factors affecting the food industries of the Arab World and other related topics will be discussed at the meetings.

The JCO itself will present five working papers dealing with these issues, including one which sheds light on the cooperatives of the occupied West Bank, Mr. Bedour said.

He added that participants are specialists in agricultural cooperatives, food industries and other related fields.

The seminar comes just one week before another meeting organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries in cooperation with JCO to discuss fodder processing in the Arab World.

The organisers said that the conference was part of ongoing efforts designed to evaluate the Arab fodder industry and boost the livestock wealth. Subjects to be discussed at the meeting, opening on Nov. 25, include economic and technical aspects of the fodder processing industry, production of fodder concentrates, modern trends in production techniques and plans for promoting the industry in the Arab World.



Jamal Bedour

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to King Hassan II of Morocco to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Morocco's independence day. King Hussein wished King Hassan II continued good health and happiness and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity.

German minister to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German Minister for Families and Senior Citizens Hamelore Roensch will visit Jordan Tuesday at the invitation of Minister of Social Development Awai Al Bashir. Mrs. Roensch will be visiting social centres of the Ministry of Social Development as well as different non-governmental projects in the social field. She will also hold talks with members of the Royal family and high ranking officials.

German delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the German Interior Ministry arrived in Amman Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan during which it will hold talks with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Maj. Gen. Fadel Ali Fuhed. The talks will deal with ways to enhance cooperation between the German Interior Ministry and the PSD. The delegation is scheduled to visit several PSD centres and institutes.

Tests for dentists held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Jordanian Dentists Association, Saturday held the general examination for dentists who graduated from foreign universities. Ahmad Al Rashidan, director of the ministry's Dentistry Department, said that 50 dentists registered their names for the test, which is held

once every three months. The verbal test for dentists will be held Sunday at the ministry's clinics in Al Abdali District, he said.

Jordan to attend conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the executive committee of the Montreal Multi-Party Fund for the Protection of the Ozone Layer to start in the Canadian capital Monday. The committee comprises representatives of 14 countries, seven of which represent Third World countries. Jordan, along with Malaysia, represent Asia in the fund. In its four-day meeting, the committee will discuss ways to protect the ozone layer and help developing countries to use industrial materials which do not hurt the Ozone Layer.

Commission stops accepting job applications

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission announced that it will stop receiving job applications as of Thursday to update the application lists and order them according to regulations. The commission will resume receiving job applications in a date to be announced in the first half of next year, the announcement said.

Exhibition opens at Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, several exhibitions were opened Saturday at Yarmouk University by University President Ali Mahafza. The exhibitions, which were organised by the university's Public Service Society in cooperation with the Armed Forces Morale Guidance Department, include photos of the Armed Forces, Jordanian national heritage items, Omani public costumes and photos depicting development in the Sultanate of Oman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hanna Sadeq Bardaw at Baladna Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handmade items at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Goethe Forest" at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of photos of His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Royal family in addition to photos of weapons and arms at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ilham Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of children's paintings commemorating the 3rd anniversary of the declaration of the state of Palestine at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ Episode five of a 10-part series entitled "The Civil War" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

IMF programme and the billion-dollar-gap

IN order for the exchange of goods and services with the outside world to go on without interruption, some sort of balance must be achieved between receipts and payments of foreign exchange. It is all right to have a deficit one odd year, to be covered by withdrawing from the reserve of the Central Bank, provided a surplus may take place next year, to be added to the reserve. This is not the case in Jordan. For the last four decades imports of goods and services were always in excess of exports. There was always a deficit and a growing gap in the current account of the balance of payments which is the best known indicator to measure the degree of economic self-sufficiency of a country.

Jordan used to cover the chronic deficit by using foreign grants, which first came from Britain, had been replaced by America since 1956, and replaced in turn by Arab Gulf states since 1967. During the seventies and eighties Jordan discovered easy money by borrowing abroad and became the first debtor in the world measured by the size of its external debt as a percentage of its gross domestic product (GDP) and the second debtor (after

Israel) as measured by the size of its debt relative to population. This state of affairs was destined to end up in crisis, which erupted in the autumn of 1988. The world discovered that Jordan was unable to service its huge debts, thus no more credit became available at a time when Arab aid was also reduced drastically, due to lower oil prices and revenues.

The gap that separated Jordan from self-sufficiency in its dealing with the outside world reached JD 712.3 million in 1990 (\$1,070 million), which was equal to 27.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). This gap decreased from the highest level of 44.1 per cent in 1983 to only 14.7 per cent in 1989, which is the lowest ratio of exposure or deficit of the Jordanian economy in modern times. The credit for narrowing the gap goes, at least in part, to the implementation of the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the first quarter of 1989. The programme was adhered to until the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990, when the balances were disturbed and all kinds of gaps widened again or went out of control.

This one billion dollar gap is not a paper gap. It represents hard currency which must be secured one way or another in order for the country to be able to buy its basic needs. The possible ways of raising this kind of money are: Foreign aid from international institutions and friendly countries, relief and rescheduling of external debt, improving tax effort internally to reduce imports and consumption and increase exports and promote investments.

These are big responsibilities and objectives which call for an immediate comprehensive economic programme. If some of our politicians and writers hate to call it an IMF programme, they should feel free to call it a National Programme for Economic Adjustment. It takes sacrifices by the people internally, and effective performance by the government internationally. The world and international institutions will not help us unless we help ourselves. It is no secret that financial aid and debt relief are no more available except to countries that follow sound economic policies and try hard to correct their state of affairs and put their houses in order.

Statesmanship above all

WILL A government formed by Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker be essentially different from the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri? It might be, depending on whom you put the question to.

To us, any differences that may exist will be over form rather than substance, over emphasis rather than direction and over style and forcefulness of leadership rather than ideology. A brief look at the prime ministers' C.V.'s easily shows that both are men of integrity, open-minded and patriotic. In the case of Mr. Masri, however, it was only unfortunate that he had to deal with a political process that could mature in time for him.

A refined politician, he found it very difficult to reconcile himself with so many ministerial hopefuls in the Lower House of Parliament who were perhaps too driven by their personal ambitions to appreciate the scope of difficulties the country is going through. He made all possible efforts to form a government that could win the House's confidence and thus embark on its mandate of political reforms. Mr. Masri's antagonists had no clear political vision of their own, nor a credible programme; many of them quarrelled with him only over petty politics. Perhaps when democracy and Parliament mature, Mr. Masri, a trusted Jordanian, would have another go at fulfilling his ambitions for reforms.

Sharif Zeid, on the other hand, though with little practical experience in the House, has the respect of all political factions for his handling of the transitional period towards democracy in 1989. As a Hashemite, he should be above all politics of division. He enjoys the trust of the King and the respect of the Jordanian people. As chief of the Royal Court for the last two years, Sharif Zeid is expected to form a strong government, whether Parliamentary or otherwise. His style of leadership and modesty should serve him well in the House. And Sharif Zeid's mandate, though not essentially different from Mr. Masri's, should be a challenging one. He has to consolidate the democratic process by passing through the House such legislation as the political parties law, the press and publications law and the election law. While Jordan will be fully engaged in the Middle East peace process, a formidable task on its own, Sharif Zeid's government will have to restructure the economy, reform civil service and cut red tape.

If Mr. Masri's political fortunes did not serve him well in the House, it is the belief of most political observers that Sharif Zeid's integrity and political acumen will be very important assets in his dealing with Parliament. It is therefore hoped that deputies, within the government or outside, would play a clean political game in which they place the country's higher interests ahead of their own and everything else. What the country needs most at this critical juncture of its history is statesmanship, and not search for Cabinet seats. Jordan and its interests must be above all; that has been the King's mandate for all his prime ministers and that is his mandate for Prime Minister-designate Zeid Ben Shaker.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TODAY marks the third anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence, one that is observed by the Palestinian people everywhere because it symbolises the fruit of their struggle over the past four decades, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The Palestinian people, through their continued struggle have secured the recognition of the world community and won support from various nations of the world for their legitimate rights in their homeland, while the ongoing intifada against the Israeli occupation has added credibility to the long struggle which is still continuing on this anniversary, said the paper. The paper said that Israel's denial of the Palestinian rights and its continued occupation of Arab land can by no means negate the people's rights and aspirations, and can by no means deprive the Palestinians of the fruit of their sacrifices and struggle for liberation and independence. The intifada will continue and the Palestinians will continue to receive backing and support from Jordan and the other Arab countries, the paper added. It said that Israel, through its atrocities and its intransigence, can by no means turn the hands of the clock backward because the struggle will continue and the Palestinians are bound to wrest their freedom sooner or later. The paper said that with the document of independence proclaimed three years ago, the Palestinians have marked the first step towards the final march towards independence and freedom.

AL DUSTOUR daily commented Saturday on Israel's threats to put on trial Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the peace conference, and said that such a step was complementary to Israel's other measures and practices designed to abort the peace conference. Israel has adopted a strategy which entails an escalation of repressive acts in the occupied territories, the construction of more Jewish settlements on Arab lands and stepping up aggression and raids on Lebanon, said the daily. It said that it was clear that the Israeli measures were aimed as a defiance of the United States and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the peace parity. The paper said that Israel's persistence not to withdraw from Arab lands and its determination to build more settlements were in themselves sufficient cause for the superpowers to exercise their pressure on the Jewish state, forcing it to comply with the U.N. resolutions and to end its arrogance. The flagrant defiance of the world community's will requires from the superpowers to act immediately, said the paper.

New signs emerge that Bush, once-invincible, now vulnerable

By Irwin Arief
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — New signs are emerging that President George Bush, whose re-election once seemed a cinch, is growing vulnerable to challenge from opposition Democrats in next year's election as a sour economy turns voters skittish.

A Los Angeles Times newspaper poll published on Tuesday had Mr. Bush running neck-and-neck against an unnamed Democratic candidate — 41 per cent to 43 per cent with a three per cent margin of error — suggesting a steep plunge in the popularity that made him seem invincible only a few weeks ago.

It marked the first time since Mr. Bush became president that he had not won easily over an unnamed Democrat in a succession of Times surveys. Just a month ago, he was favoured for re-election by 55 per cent to 37 per cent.

The latest poll showed the president winning handily with 55 per cent to 37 per cent, said a spokesman at a specific Democrat such as Mario Cuomo.

It said if the election were held today Mr. Bush would beat the New York state governor by 55 per cent to 37 per cent. Many Democrats consider Mr. Cuomo the party's strongest potential candidate even though he has not declared himself in the race.

The White House shrugged off the news. "Polls go up and polls go down. We have a year to go," said presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

Of Mr. Cuomo, whose performance was rated quite strong by political analysts considering he is still on the sidelines, Mr. Fitzwater added: "We never try to tell the Democratic Party who to have as a candidate. They have a lot of good candidates... We'll

BUSH GEORGE HERBERT WALKER '92 4/12/24									
LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME CLASS SENIORITY		WHITE HOUSE LNN. DATE 10/81 COUNSELLOR RONALD REAGAN							
SUBJECTS	10/81	11/81	12/81	1/82	2/82	3/82	4/82	5/82	6/82
ECONOMICS	SOPI.	0	D	U	U	48	7		
ECOLOGY	FR.	0	F	U	U	52	6		
TRANSPORTATION	FR.	0	F	U	U	52	7		
FOREIGN POLICY	JR.	2	B	S	S	0	6		
DOMESTIC POLICY	SOPI.	0	F	U	U	46	10		
EDUCATION	FR.	0	F	U	U	48	11		
HEALTH CARE	FR.	0	F	U	U	50	16		
P.E.	JR.	10	A	E	E	0	0		

EXPLANATION OF MARKS
 SUBJECTS
 A - PROFILES MARCOLE
 B - PROFILES MARCOLE
 C - PROFILES MARCOLE
 D - NEED TO IMPROVE RESEARCH
 E - NEED TO IMPROVE RESEARCH
 F - DEMONSTRATES LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS IN WORK

take whoever they throw at us." Although Mr. Bush might take solace in his mastery over named Democrats, even Republicans saw cause for worry in the fresh evidence his public support was diminishing sharply from the heights it reached after the Gulf war triumph.

"That has got to be unnerving for George Bush because six months ago he was considered unbeatable," Republican analyst Kevin Phillips said in reference to the dead-heat with an unspecified Democratic opponent.

"What numbers like that mean is that, measured against what the American people would ideally like in the presidency, Bush is now beginning to not measure up. But as far as the likelihood that a Democratic candidate

could measure up to that ideal, all the polls show that that's a long way from happening," Mr. Phillips told Reuters.

Democrats were cheered because the poll showed Mr. Cuomo performing better against Bush than any other Democrat had.

"This is in a vacuum with no campaign debate as of yet and against an undeclared candidate," said Democratic analyst Bob Beckel. "I don't consider that good news for Bush. If I were him, I wouldn't panic right now but I'd be getting out my surgical tools and figuring out something to do, because if there's no uptick in the economy by spring, he's in real trouble."

Judging by recent actions, Mr.

Bush is already reacting to ominous political signs that include a steady flow of grim news on the economy, a strong showing in the Louisiana governor's race by self-styled Republican and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, and the surprise defeat in last week's Pennsylvania Senate race of Dick Thornburgh, a close Bush ally and former cabinet aide.

In moves that Republicans have tried to portray as smart politics but Democrats call signs of a man running scared, he has dropped his longstanding opposition to civil rights legislation, put off a trip to Asia and promised to propose, national health care reforms.

"You had a major political upset in Pennsylvania that I'm sure is weighing heavily on the minds at the White House but I don't think it's running scared," said Republican political consultant Steve Sandler.

"I think it's people paying attention to the electorate," Mr. Sandler said. "If the election were held tomorrow, I think Bush would win handily against any of the Democrats," he added. "Elections aren't run against unnamed Democrats."

But with Mr. Cuomo possibly poised to enter the presidential nomination race, the poll results seemed a sure sign that the Democrats were succeeding in chipping away at the president's standing with the voters one year before the 1992 election.

The key to Mr. Bush's future, analysts agreed, would be the performance of the economy over the next four or five months.

"If it's still sagging in February or March, the Democrats are going to be able to indict him," said Mr. Phillips. "But if on the other hand the economy picks up, the Democrats will have lost their escalator."

Bush says his foreign policy concern is good for America

By Laurence McQuillan
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — A defensive President George Bush is telling America his passion for foreign affairs is driven by concern about the quality of life at home, a message advisers believe must be reinforced on the way to next year's presidential election.

Throughout his presidency, Mr. Bush has spoken openly of the relish with which he has tackled foreign affairs — dealing with China or the intransigence of nations in the Middle East and embarking on military showdowns with Panama and Iraq.

Now, whether in Italy or the Netherlands, Kansas or Missouri, Mr. Bush pounds away at his theme — serving America when he steps onto the international stage.

Of his dispatching of troops in 1989 to remove Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega, Mr. Bush said: "When a dictator threatened American lives, we helped the Panamanian people validate their own free elections, by kicking him out, seeing that he's brought to trial."

Of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Bush said during a visit this week to St. Louis: "When a brutal tyrant invaded Kuwait, we helped roll back aggression and liberate a land."

"Was that victory foreign? Was that domestic? What was it? He asked. "I think it was in the fundamental national interest of the United States that we led the world to say one country is not going to brutalise its neighbour. It's good for your kids and mine, and it's good for the entire world."

What worries Mr. Bush most is America's economy.

A year from now he faces an election to find out if voters are in the mood to give him a second four-year term, and unemployment is steadily increasing as a hoped-for economic recovery re-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Britain, Winston Churchill was denied the prime ministership in the last days of World War II despite inspiring his nation in war, partly due to worries over post-war domestic issues.

Mr. Bush is trying to avoid any parallel with Churchill — victory in war rejection in peace. "Bush isn't Churchill, and we're making sure that doesn't happen," said a Bush adviser.

That explains why the American president postponed a 10-day trip planned for this month to Japan and Australia, already scaled back from 13 days.

After flying to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid early in the month, attending a NATO summit in Italy and an EC session last week, aides convinced him he was taking too great a political risk by spending so much time abroad.

Democrats have been selling T-shirts listing Mr. Bush's foreign travel and calling it the "Anywhere but America" tour.

Baghdad-Basra road provides insight into woes of southern Iraq

By Andrew Hill
 Reuter

BASRA — Ragged children, Republican Guards and wreckage. The highway from Baghdad to Basra tells the tale of Saddam Hussein's problems in southern Iraq.

It is eight months since President Saddam Hussein's troops crushed a rebellion by Shiites emboldened by his defeat in the Gulf war. But red-bellied Republican Guards still man roadblocks every few kilometres.

The 600-kilometre highway to Iraq's second city, on the doorstep of Kuwait, provides an insight into post-Gulf war southern Iraq. The region is home to Shiite Muslims, Iraq's largest single ethnic group.

The highway leads through the rich flat farmland of ancient Mesopotamia. Rice is growing beside the Tigris River. Maize is ripening under the last of the autumn sun.

Across the plains black smoke billows day and night from kilns churning out bricks to help rebuild Iraq after the war.

But the price of bricks, maize and rice has escalated out of the reach of many of those who need them most. Free-for-all economic conditions have gripped Iraq because of United Nations sanctions and frozen foreign assets.

"Before the war, you could buy a truck load of 3,000 bricks for 350 dinars," one Shiite resident recalled. "Now they cost at least 1,000 dinars per truck. Who can afford that?"

Using official exchange rates, bricks used to cost \$1,085 a truckload. Now they would cost \$3,100.

But the comparative prices are misleading because of a flourishing black market which makes nonsense of the official exchange rate of one dinar equals 3.1 dollars. It is more like 10 dinars equal one dollar in the alleyways of Baghdad's markets.

Exchange rates, official or black market, mean little to the poor of southern Iraq. Only the wealthiest have access to dollars.

Malnutrition was unheard of in southern Iraq before the Gulf war, Iraqi doctors say. People had access to subsidised food, good health services and adequate water.

Not now. The government still tries to provide one third of daily food intake at subsidised prices with a rationing system. The other two thirds have to be bought on the free market, at prices often 60 times those the government charges.

This has led to malnutrition among children, aggravated by bad drinking water because of Gulf war bomb damage to the main pumping and purification stations, and a lack of drugs to treat the sick.

Infant mortality in Basra has doubled from 6.5 per cent of children treated to 12.6 per cent, according to Basra Director General of Health Rajih Thamer.

Douglas Broderick is head of the U.S. Catholic Relief Services, an American aid agency that had no place in pre-war Iraq. He is alarmed at what he called the slow slide now taking place.

"What I see now is a few beans and rice water on the table where there used to be a rich stew with meat and vegetables. What I see is a market of shortages where there used to be everything," said Mr. Broderick, who operates several health centres in the south.

"I was at one of our centres the other day and there were 300 mothers clamouring for milk. They were begging for it. There was not one smiling, healthy-looking child in the place."

Hardship is visible from the road where barefoot children play a few hundred metres from wrecked factories, bombed army installations and soldiers standing guard.

Behind low walls along the highway are countless army camps where new recruits drill in the heat.

Iraqi officials are reluctant to discuss why the Republican Guard is so widely deployed at roadblocks fashioned from spent shell cases and lit by single electric bulbs.

There is little traffic at night. At one roadblock this week, a Republican Guard let off a few rounds to stop a truck driver who tried to creep past.

"The soldiers are just joking with him," said a Ministry of Information guide as the troops frisked the driver and took him to a tent for questioning. "They are just making a joke."

A Golan Heights proposal

The following letter to the editor by Abe Nathan appeared in the International Herald Tribune on Nov. 8, 1991.

MAY I offer a perspective on the Golan Heights problem — from the prison cell where I am serving an 18-month term for violating a law that prohibits Israelis from meeting with PLO members?

Many of us remember the months before the 1967 war, when Israelis in the valley were shelled from the mountaintops in the Golan Heights. There was no peace in the valley. So when Israel captured the Golan Heights, almost everyone thought it was a just cause.

But Israel's victory in 1967 brought neither peace nor security to the region. Instead, the present borders brought more casualties on both sides than occurred in the years before the 1967 war.

If the occupation of the Golan Heights was meant to prevent guns from firing on the settlements, one could sympathise with Israel. If the occupation was meant to exploit the captured territory for gain, or to enlarge Israel, the chances for peace can be considered nil.

Anyway, these days the Syrians do not need the Golan Heights to wage war on Israel: they could fire Scud missiles from the Damascus area and no Israeli city would be safe. And Israel, of course, could use its own missiles, chemical weapons and, as a last resort, some of the 300 atomic bombs it reportedly has.

All this would lead to the destruction of the entire region. Do we have a choice? Yes, and now, while the attempt at dialogue is being made, Israel should be willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights on the following conditions.

1. Syria agrees to demilitarise the area returned.
2. The United States and the Soviet Union, under United Nations mandate, place observers to guarantee the demilitarisation.
3. The observers would be removed only on joint Israeli-Syrian request.
4. Syria would agree to sign a peace treaty with Israel.
5. Syria would agree to permit Israeli settlers to continue living in the Heights, under agreed-on conditions.
6. Syria would permit any Jew wishing to leave Syria to go to Israel.

Only in this spirit of reason, magnanimity, compromise, and concern for the future can there be hope for peace.

Sharif Zeid forming government

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Azaideh said he "did not rule out studying the option of (the Brotherhood) abstaining rather than voting against the new government" if the movement felt that the new government would strengthen public freedoms.

"The Islamists have made no secret of their feeling that they were being targeted by the Masri government. They say that many of their supporters were detained and point out that at least two of their planned gatherings to voice opposition to the peace process were aborted and one of their publications was banned."

Public freedoms had "reopened" under the government of Mr. Masri, Mr. Azaideh asserted. "We hope that on the internal level there would be an improvement, especially in public freedoms, which greatly relaxed under previous government," he said.

The issue of public freedoms, he added, "will carry a lot of weight in favour of a Sharif Zeid government."

Mr. Azaideh said the Brotherhood "joining the government (of Sharif Zeid) is not on the cards" since the movement does not believe that there will be any change in Jordan's participation in the peace process.

The Muslim Brotherhood rejects any negotiation with Israel and refuses to accept a compromise solution over the occupied territories. It calls for the "total liberation of the land of Palestine" — the territory covered under the British mandate of Palestine.

If the Muslim Brotherhood decides to abstain from voting in a confidence session, the votes of its members would be considered as favourable to the government.

The spokesman for the Constitution Bloc, Youssef Mbaideen, said his bloc had not met yet to discuss the changes of government but said he expected that "all parliamentary blocs, except perhaps the Muslim Brotherhood, would extend their support

to Sharif Zeid." Asked whether his bloc would make the same demands of this government that were made of Mr. Masri's, Mr. Mbaideen said that he could only speak for himself but that "if I was not asked to join the government but was asked for a vote of confidence in Sharif Zeid I would give it."

The Constitution Bloc, ranking as the second largest bloc in the Lower House but lacking in political ideology, had demanded that Mr. Masri include them in his coalition government with a percentage similar to their weight in Parliament and had led the campaign against Mr. Masri in parliament when they were excluded from a government reshuffle last month.

Salama Arar, the head of the 16-member National Bloc, of which Mr. Masri himself is member, said he met with Sharif Zeid Saturday but that he had not discussed his meeting with members of his bloc yet.

He said that Sharif Zeid had informed him that he was asked to form a government and that he was conducting consultations on the form of government.

Mr. Arar said it was "premature" to discuss whether his bloc will participate in Sharif Zeid's government until "further consultations" were held with the prime minister-designate.

Democratic Bloc members, who are split among themselves, said their decision was contingent on the government statement to be delivered by the prime minister in the regular session of parliament.

Sharif Zeid, who holds the rank of field marshal, is a career military officer, served as commander in chief of the Armed Forces for over a decade before being named chief of Royal Court and special adviser to His Majesty King Hussein on military affairs.

Sharif Zeid served as prime minister for an interim period of eight months in 1989, leading the country to general elections in November of that year and leaving the premiership in December to Mudar Badran.

Ashrawi will not be put on trial

(Continued from page 1)

measures right now, in view of the peace process," Dr. Ashrawi said, denouncing the move as a bid to silence the Palestinians.

Jordan, called on Washington and Moscow to protect Dr. Ashrawi.

President George Bush expressed concern over the issue.

"He shook my hand as he was leaving and said, 'please know that Hanan is in my mind and I'm paying very close attention to what is happening over there,'" George Salem, chairman of the

Khalil advises peace delegation

(Continued from page 1)

ment broadcast nationwide on radio and television on the eve of the 21st anniversary of Mr. Assad's assumption of power in a bloodless coup on Nov. 16, 1970.

Mr. Assad, 61, made no specific reference to the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

But he said to Israel's leaders the word peace "is a false commodity with which they have traded for some time and, when it was put on the spot and the time for examination matured, the deception was disclosed and masks dropped from the Israeli rulers' faces."

Arab-American Leadership Council, said after a meeting with Mr. Bush.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: "We think now it's in everyone's interests to create a climate that promotes negotiations and gives them a greater chance of succeeding."

Mr. Boucher did not say how Washington's concern was transmitted to Israel.

Mr. Shamir is due to meet Mr. Bush next Friday and the United States is expected to announce a site for a resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations soon.

The writing on the wall in Palestine

By Paul Lalor

GRAFFITI is one of the most visible signs of the intifada and of Israel's attempts to eradicate it. Walls on main streets in the towns and villages of the occupied territories are alive with Arabic script and the black paint used to blot it out. Together they tell a vibrant tale about what has happened in the West Bank and Gaza since the outbreak of the uprising in December 1987.

The early days

From the earliest days of the intifada, graffiti supplemented the leaflets of the united leadership and instructions passed on by word of mouth. Arguably it also gave a voice to the grass roots of the intifada. The writing on the wall varied from hastily scribbled messages and slogans to elaborate murals covering entire houses. While most of it was written in places assuring it maximum publicity, it tended to be more artistic in villages where Israeli patrols were less frequent. There were special places for important announcements, like the "newspaper", a section of wall on Palestine Street in Qadura camp near Ramallah. In Jallazun it was the wall near the coffee shop in the centre of the camp and in Gaza, Omar Al Mukhtar Street performed the same function.

Recurring symbols were the clenched fist, the "V" sign, the rifle, the flag and the map of Palestine. The first represented the Palestinian strike force, the "V" the Churchillian sign for steadfastness in the face of adversity. Map, flag and gun were often combined, as with the PFLP mural which was sometimes painted in the distinctive chequered pattern of the kufiyah. The traditional practice of incorporating script into images was also prevalent, for instance when "Fateh" is written into Kalashnikov machine gun.

Wall writers helped to organise daily life during the intifada. For instance, they reinforced strike calls and the drive for a boycott of Israeli goods. Car owners were asked not to drive on strike days. Though Israel went off summer time on Aug. 31 1990, graffiti notified Palestinians that for them "winter time will begin on Sept. 15."



Grffiti, the 'voice' of the silenced, is omnipresent on the walls in Palestine, telling the saga of events in the occupied territories during the intifada (photos by Nidal Ibrahim)

The walls also expressed defiance. "We will not be deterred by the demolition of houses" appeared on a house knocked down by the Israelis. Martyrs were commemorated and national days were celebrated with slogans and drawings. The artists also sought to boost morale. Leftists reminded Palestinians that "the Israelis are not stronger than the United States." The Palestinians are not weaker than the Vietnamese. The left also played a hand in emphasising the importance of social and other issues. "Equal pay for equal work" was a common one, another was "give work first to the holders of green identity cards," who are denied the right to work in Israel.

No subject or space was overlooked by the graffiti writers. Nearly every rubbish bin in the territories had something like "Shamir's office" or simply "Israel" inscribed on it. The current prime minister of Israel was referred to as a donkey, Rabin as a monkey and Sharon as an elephant. Swastikas and references to fascism are commonplace. And the slogans often rhymed, like the couplet in Al Bira written shortly after His Majesty King Hussein cut his links with the West Bank in July 1988. It read: "We don't want the shekel, or the dinar, we want the currency of Abu Ammar."

Stamping it out

"We had wall stamps you know," Adil told me. "We cut the shape of the symbols and slogans out of a newspaper placed them against a wall and applied the paint." At the beginning, instructions were issued from a central command. "If there was an order to put up a certain slogan in Manara (the centre of Ramallah) there would be three or four people involved — some to do it, others to keep watch. It was usually done at night and sometimes we would barricade the road to give us time to get away in case an army patrol came."

The Israelis mounted huge clean-up operations, sealed off streets and villages and forced the local inhabitants to erase graffiti. Israeli soldiers with spray guns and tanks of black paint or whitewash on their back blotted it out. However, this policy was of limited value. As one activist pointed out, "we had to paint over old slogans anyway when we wanted to do something new, so with paint in short supply the Israelis were doing us a favour."

However, in August and September 1989 the first Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli soldiers for writing on their own walls. By May 1991 it was estimated that as many as seven Palestinian youths had been killed in this way. The occupation authorities also began to make Palestinians responsible for erasing their own graffiti. On June 9, 1988 the Israeli military commander of the West Bank announced that refusal to erase graffiti was punishable by a five-year prison sentence or a fine of 1,500 new Israeli shekels (\$750) or both.

However, this proved impossible to enforce and an additional order threatened those who did not remove graffiti from their property with a fine of new Israeli shekels of 350. It was put into practice for the first time in October 1989 and there were no exceptions. Dr. Saeb Erekat, the political leader from Jericho, who was recently named as one of the Palestinian delegates to the Madrid peace conference, was summoned to the office of the military commander, to discuss local matter, he thought. When he got there he was ordered to pay a fine for failing to erase graffiti which had appeared on the wall of his house.

Before the intifada, graffiti was signed by the group responsible for it. However, after the first leaflet of the united leadership was issued in January 1988, the United National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU) logo was used to signify the unity. But with the emergence of Hamas, growing differences over tactics and strategy and a widening gap between the grass roots and the leadership, individual groups began to sign their own material.

When Hamas and other Islamic groups first appeared, they were widely criticised for being more interested in gaining support for themselves than in helping the national cause and in many places their slogans were painted over. However, as the pre-PNC debate of 1988 provoked differences over how to approach peace it became more acceptable. By the end of 1988 it had also proved its willingness to make sacrifices and cooperate with UNLU. Speaking

at the time, Ali Al Jarbawi, who has written a book about the intifada in Arabic, said: "Today you will see a slogan by Hamas on a wall, and if you are Palestinian you won't clean it off. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have become a fact of life."

Reflecting divisions

Emerging divisions were highly visible on the walls. When coloured paint was available Hamas would write in green, Fateh in black and the left-wing groups in red. The red star signified the Democratic Front, the hammer and sickle represented the Communist Party. The Dome of the Rock or the Koran were the favourite emblems of the Islamic groups, often coupled with a single finger pointing heavenward. The curled knuckles and finger spelt out Allah in Arabic.

Despite Hamas's claim of impartiality in the left-right dispute within the PLO — "no left, no right Hamas is the light" — there were signs of tactical unity with the loyal opposition, the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh's DFLP. "No to liquidationist solutions" and "the Baker Plan will not save the Shamir Plan" were common to all rejectionists. And whereas Hamas would write "the destruction of Israel is a Koranic inevitability" and "Islam is the solution and jihad is the way," the PFLP would argue that "the power of logic is no substitute for the logic of power" and "the rifle cleared the way for the stone as the stone cleared the way for the rifle." Fateh's slogan read "national unity will remain in fortress in the face of fascist occupation," "Fateh" was scrawled on every available public place and the Fateh eagle, and pictures of Arafat, sometimes embracing the martyr Abu Jihad, were also ubiquitous.

At central points there were disputes over the use of wall space, involving knives in Jallazun camp where the Communists fell out with the PFLP and Fateh. For instance in the summer of 1989, Jamil Ta'iri, a West Bank Fateh supporter who met the Israeli prime minister, became the subject of death threats signed by the PFLP. Fateh members countered with graffiti in support of the meeting.

In mid-August 1989, the united leadership's Communique No. 44 called on all factions to sign their slogans UNLU to enhance national unity. However, divisions persisted and there were signs that the gap between the leadership and the grass roots was growing. In May 1990, 40 Palestinian "notables" went on hunger strike in Jerusalem to protest against the Rishon Lezion massacre. Leaflets were distributed in the occupied territories and the action was widely covered internationally. But Salah Abdul Jawwad of Bir Zeit University, who has been collecting graffiti material, "did not find a single slogan on the walls relating to the hunger strikes." On the other hand, the walls were covered with slogans calling for revenge and the escalation of the intifada into armed struggle.

Against a background of mounting frustration, economic hardship and little progress in the peace process, increasing numbers of collaborators were killed. Armed groups with names like "the Guardians of Al Aqsa," "the Lions of the Revolution" and

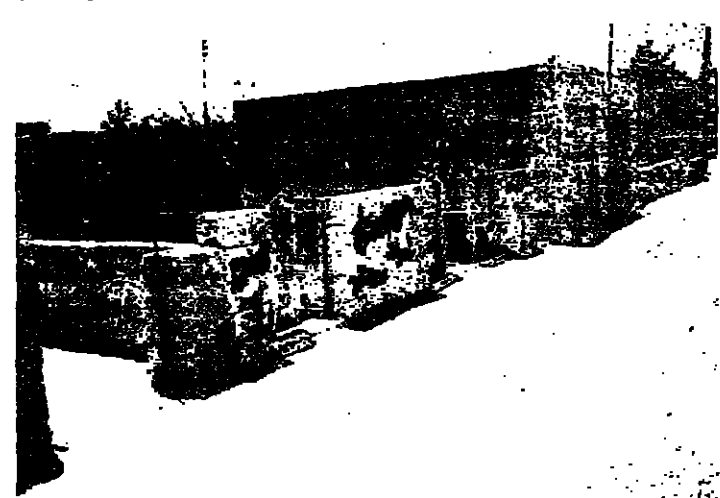
the "Black Panthers" appeared and there were firefights between different factions in Nablus. They also made an impact on the walls and their slogans were rarely political. According to Adil, they wrote strong militant slogans like "death to collaborators" or "congratulations to the hand who killed so and so." There was a serious escalation in the war of the walls this summer when there were death threats against Faisal Hussein and Haman Ashrawi after their meetings with Secretary of State Baker. Even the PFLP responded by condemning these threats and calling for the peaceful resolution of inter-Palestinian disputes.

Many Palestinians have concluded that the intifada is in crisis, especially in the wake of the Gulf war. And there are fears that if the peace process fails, the downward spiral will continue. Among others, leftist lecturer Musa Budeiri has called for elections and a more representative leadership to replace "those who are sought out by the media." Salim Tamari, also of Bir Zeit University, has pointed out that whatever

happens, Palestinians will have to develop a survival strategy involving political and economic programmes to revitalise and sustain the intifada. They should also exploit Western opposition to Israeli settlements in the territories and the threat of mass expulsion to secure aid from outside. Ultimately, Israel would have to enforce autonomy on the Palestinians or integrate them, thus realising the Palestinian dream of a unitary and democratic state throughout historical Palestine.

Mr. Tamari might approve of the sentiments expressed by the daring artist who drew "long live the state of Palestine" and an Israeli flag below the Israeli observation post in the centre of Ramallah. The message seemed to be that just as the artist had put his slogan on the wall under the noses of the Israelis, so Palestinians could lay the groundwork for their state under the Israeli occupation. — Middle East International.

Paul Lalor is a research student at St. Antony's College, Oxford.



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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Keller, Maleeva advance in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Andra Keller, the only remaining woman in the Jell-O Tennis Classic, reached the final round on Friday over fourth-seeded Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia. Two-time champion Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, the top seed, took 65 minutes to beat unseeded Mercedes Paz of Argentina 6-2, 6-1 in the second semifinal of the \$250,000 tournament at the Indianapolis Racquet Club. The unseeded Keller, 19, of Memphis, Tenn., will play Maleeva for the championship and a first prize of \$27,000. It took Keller only 51 minutes to win her semifinal match, breaking service for leads of 3-2 and 5-2 and winning the last four games of the first set. Keller took control with a service break for 4-3 in the second set.

Cuba captures volleyball title

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Cuba beat Peru 15-9, 15-12, 2-15, 15-11 Saturday for its fourth straight win and clinched the title in the Women's World Cup Volleyball Championships. Even if Cuba loses in straight sets to the Soviet Union Sunday, it will win the championship because of its better set ratio. With the loss, Peru fell to 1-3. In other final-round matches at Osaka Castle Hall in western Japan, China defeated the World Champion Soviet Union 15-3, 5-15, 15-7 for its third victory against one defeat. The Soviet Union fell to 3-1. The United States downed winless South Korea 15-10, 15-6, 15-10 for its first win against four defeats. The six teams advanced to the final round after placing among the top three in two groups in the preliminary round.

Van Basten suspension lifted

MILAN (R) — An Italian soccer disciplinary board Friday lifted a one-day suspension imposed on AC Milan's Marco Van Basten. The Dutch striker had been sent off after a linesman accused him of hitting an opponent at the end of Milan's 4-1 league victory over Roma on Nov. 3. But the board ruled the alleged action was unintentional and lifted the ban, which would have kept Van Basten out of Sunday's difficult away game against champions Sampdoria. Van Basten had argued that he was a victim of mistaken identity and said television replays proved that his team mate Aldo Serena was the culprit.

Baltics may take part in World Cup

ZURICH (AP) — Soccer's world governing body may permit the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to participate in the 1994 World Cup. FIFA said its executive committee will consider the applications on Dec. 7, a day before the World Cup qualifying draw. A total of 140 countries have entered the tournament, which will be played in the United States from June 17-July 17, 1994. Estonia and Latvia joined FIFA on May 20, 1993, and Lithuania joined the following day. The three, which were recognized as independent countries earlier this year, never resigned their FIFA membership. Normally, only the FIFA congress can grant membership and the next congress isn't scheduled until July 3. However, the executive committee can grant provisional membership and is expected to do so. Germany gets a spot in the final 24 as the defending champion and the United States gets a berth as the host nation. The rest will play a two-year series of qualifying games. FIFA said Friday it had accepted the late entries of Mauritania, Mozambique, Swaziland and Vietnam. It has said it does not plan to consider the issue of readmitting South Africa before the draw.

Cyprus to host Yugoslavia-Australia match

LONDON (AP) — Nicosia, Cyprus has been chosen as the site for the Davis Cup match next year between Yugoslavia and Australia, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said Friday. The first-round World Group tie had been scheduled to be played in Yugoslavia but was moved because of the civil conflict in that country. Australia had offered to host the match, but Yugoslavia recommended Cyprus as the alternate site. The choice received general approval Friday, said Thomas Hallberg, the ITF's director of Davis Cup competition. The match will be played Jan. 31-Feb. 2 on an indoor carpet surface. The Nicosia arena has a capacity of 3,000 spectators.

Connors is not thinking about retiring

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — At age 39 and still a tiger on the tennis court, Jimmy Connors says, "I don't even think about retiring." The U.S. ace arrived Friday for weekend exhibitions against Argentine great Jose Luis Clerc, 33, but left the pro circuit six days ago. Trying to build some interest in the Saturday and Sunday matches on the red clay courts at the Buenos Aires lawn tennis club, Connors said he's looking to avenge a 1982 loss to Clerc. "He was very young and I tried to wear him down, but couldn't," he told reporters at Ezeiza International Airport. The world No. 1 from 1974-77, Connors soldiered on despite the loss. This season has been one of his best in years. Last September, he reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open. His secret? "I always took care of myself. I never tried drugs and I love tennis," he said.

Sanchez-Vicario, Capriati advance in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and No. 4 seed Jennifer Capriati took different routes Friday into the semifinals of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Tennis Tournament.

Sanchez-Vicario, ranked No. 5 in the world, took the more difficult path, overcoming hard-serving Brenda Schultz 6-7, (4-7), 6-1, 6-4.

Capriati, 15, who is ranked No. 6 and playing in her first tournament since the U.S. Open, took the easy way, defeating seventh-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 6-3, 6-2.

The 6-foot-2 (1.88-metre), 170-pound (77-kilogram) Schultz's big serve was not enough against Sanchez-Vicario, who won for the fourth time in as many meetings between the two.

For the most part, Sanchez-Vicario was content to trade ground strokes and wait for Schultz to make a mistake.

Sanchez-Vicario came to the net only 34 times in the 1-hour, 55-minute match, compared with 92 for Schultz. Schultz made 42 unforced errors to 14 for Sanchez-Vicario.

When she did come in, however, Sanchez-Vicario won 71 per cent of the points, compared with 53 per cent for Schultz.

Sanchez-Vicario broke Schultz's serve in the first game of the match but lost her serve in the eighth game when Schultz hit an overhead off a poor lob.

Sanchez-Vicario was disturbed by several line calls in the tie-breaker and fell behind 4-1 and 6-3 before hitting a volley wide to lose the set.

The 19-year-old Spaniard dominated the second set, break-



Jennifer Capriati

ing Schultz's serve twice, once in a love game, after saving two break points in the first game.

The game mirrored the two most recent meetings between the players, with Sanchez-Vicario dropping the first set, then rallying to win.

"That played on my mind in the second set," Schultz said. "I was just not there. I was thinking how I would win the first and lose the second and because I was thinking that, I was not mentally into it."

The pivotal service break of the match came in the seventh game of the third set. Schultz saved a pair of break points before hitting a backhand into the net.

In the 10th game, Schultz saved one match point with a lob but Sanchez-Vicario won the next point with an overpowering passing shot.

"I knew I had to be patient because she has a great serve," Sanchez-Vicario said. "But I had

to try to be aggressive and move the ball and go to the net before she could come in."

Capriati, wearing contact lenses in a tournament for the first time, needed only 59 minutes to beat Maleeva-Fragniere, overcoming a lost service game in the fifth game of the first set to record breaks in the sixth and eighth games.

After the match, Capriati's agent, John Evert, said she will be coached by Pavel Slozil starting at the end of the year. Slozil formerly coached Steffi Graf.

In other quarterfinal play, top seed Monica Seles overcame a first set lapse to oust eighth-seeded American Zina Garrison 7-6, 6-0.

Seles will take on Sanchez-Vicario in the semifinals, while Capriati faces second seed Gabriela Sabatini, who advanced Thursday, in what could well be a preview of a quarterfinal at next week's Virginia Slims Championships.

UEFA bans Torino from home game

ZURICH (R) — Italy's Torino must play the home leg of their UEFA Cup third-round tie against AEK Athens at least 300 kilometres from Turin because of trouble-making fans, the European Football Union (UEFA) said.

UEFA's disciplinary committee imposed the sanction Thursday because Torino fans fought with police and destroyed seating at the away leg of their second-round tie against Boavista of Portugal on Nov. 6.

Boavista, knocked out of the competition by Torino, came off worse from the hearing. The Portuguese club must play their next two home-leg ties in any of the three UEFA club competitions at least 200 kilometres from their stadium.

UEFA said there had been important lapses in security arrangements at the Goavista Stadium and UEFA directives had not been properly observed.

It said the second half of the match was delayed for seven minutes while Boavista fans threw projectiles at the Torino goalkeeper.

AEK Athens, Torino's third-round opponents, were also punished. They received a 75,000 Swiss francs (\$52,000) fine because of a pitch invasion during their second-round home leg tie against Sparta Moscow on Nov. 6.

The clubs have until midnight Monday to appeal against the sanctions.

Welsh striker Dean Saunders received a three-match suspension for violent conduct.

Saunders was sent off in the 56th minute of Wales's Group 5 European Championship qualifying tie against Germany on Oct. 16 for a bad tackle on

midfielder Thomas Doll. Germany won the tie 4-1.

UEFA also fined Spanish side Osasuna 50,000 francs (\$32,500) after missiles thrown by their fans hit a linesman during the UEFA Cup tie against VfB Stuttgart of Germany Oct. 22.

Bulgaria's CSKA Sofia received a 25,000-franc (\$16,250) fine for the poor organisation of their UEFA Cup game against Hamburg on Nov. 6.

Roma were fined 10,000 francs (\$6,500). UEFA said the Italian club's supporters let off fireworks during their European Cup Winners' Cup tie against Finland's Ilves Tampere, also on Nov. 6.

St Etienne beats St Germain 3-0

PARIS (R) — St Etienne brought back memories of better times when they thrashed title-chasing Paris St Germain 3-0 in the French soccer first division.

The dominant French club of the 1970s and European Cup finalists in 1976, St Etienne struggled against the Parisian club's tough defence until Czechoslovak

midfielder Lubomir Moravcik broke the deadlock in the 38th minute.

In the second half, Middle-of-the-table St Etienne laid siege to the visitors' goal and scored through a Sylvain Kastendechen penalty in the 51st minute and from Didier Tholot one minute before the final whistle.

Agassi reaches Frankfurt semifinals

FRANKFURT (R) — American defending champion Andre Agassi clinched his place in the semifinals of the ATP Tour World Tennis Championships with a 7-5 6-3 victory over Wimbledon champion Michael Stich Friday.

Agassi took just 70 minutes to serve Stich his third defeat of the round-robin group stage and move towards a clash with compatriot Jim Courier Saturday, a repeat of this year's French Open final which Courier won.

Fellow American Pete Sampras, who qualified for the last four despite losing 6-4 6-7 6-1 to Germany's Boris Becker Friday, will meet unbeaten Ivan Lendl in the other semifinal.

But the semifinal line-up was in doubt until the final group match between Agassi and Stich, providing a dramatic ending to the round-robin stage of the year-ending championships.

Becker, the three-times Wimbledon champion, still had a chance of reaching the semifinals after an athletic and aggressive performance against Sampras which delighted his home German crowd in the Frankfurt Arena.

But he needed his compatriot Stich to beat to keep his hopes alive in the final match.

The Wimbledon champion, who has failed to show his best form this week, was incapable of providing a victory.

Agassi made a key break in the 12th game to take the first set 7-5 in 40 minutes. The French Open finalist broke again in the fourth game of the second set to take a 3-1 lead and never looked back.

Courier booked his semifinal place from the other group with a 7-6 6-4 victory over Frenchman Guy Forget.

Lendl had gone through Friday as the group winner after winning all three of his matches.

Agassi said he felt he was in a good position to defend his title but the field was wide open now that the event was entering the knock-out stage.

"I played extremely well. If I play as well the rest of the weekend the others will really have to earn their money," he said.

"But when it is down to four players everyone has just a good chance. When there are four people left anything can happen."

The last time three Americans reached the semifinals of the year-ending championships, which used to be known as the Masters, was in 1982.

"It is exciting for America," Agassi said. "It's a big step for the U.S. now that three out of the four semifinalists are Americans."

Agassi said the tournament lost a great competitor with Becker's elimination but also said the four players who played the best tennis during the week advanced.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1991

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may find out that others are too wrapped up in their own projections to really seriously consider what you are trying to do for them. Find other ways to capture their attention first.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to get many things done whether at your home, on the road, with your studies or wherever you have any duties to perform.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are now able to bring your charm to the surface and to show all what a charmer you are and how you are to make everything fit in perfect harmony.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Matters at your own home require some tuning up and some new set of circumstances through which to indicate your ability to use your inventive ability.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the time for you to show you are the one who does value your usual contacts by giving them more support and listening closely to their ideas.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to be sure you live what you believe by getting everything you organized and arranged so that every detail and item is in its right place.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you have a day and

evening to do what you like the most and to get others to go along with your standpoint instead of merely serving their ideas.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Reflect, meditate and concentrate how you can live more in tune with the harmony of the Universe and quietly please those of whom you are fond of.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get out with your acquaintances and try to deepen the respect they have for you and to make them closer friends and more a part of your personal ventures.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look to those who are highly placed or very powerful in their sphere of activity that also has to do with you and get their results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look for the new persons and interests that are such your whole scheme of existence can reach a higher plateau of thought and action.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to that instinct based that tells you what to do to make better allies of those who like everything to be very meticulous and precise in fact.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to have considerable conversation now with your partner which can be productive of excellent result so talk things out now.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

by Harri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FELKA

AMMIX

TIVNAY

HARANG

Answer here: TO

Yesterday's Jumbles: PUTTY HAVOC UNSAID SOOTHE

Answer: They paid a lot to look up their family tree, and then paid more to have it --- HUSHED UP

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

ACROSS

1 On high

5 Actress Loretta

10 Days

14 19th birthplace

15 even keel

17 A doodle

18 Troubled

19 Hereditary unit

20 Religious books

22 Indian

23 Hi region

24 Jubilee

26 Like forests

30 Seagull land

32 Ford site

33 One

35 Paper money

36 Masonry

41 Certain ray

43 A Miller work

44 BPOE word

46 In spite of

47 of do or

die

48 Thoroughfare

51 Trash

54 Cat's paw

56 Others: Lat.

57 Twin-hulled

60 Hotel name

63 Urinal

65 "Now I am the

Ruler of the

Queen's"

66 Big blow

67 Stray

68 Round map

69 Poems

70 Unit of force

71 Madrigal man

IN POLITICS THIS IS WHERE THE "PATHS OF GLORY" MIGHT LEAD.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: TO

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

ACROSS

1 On high

5 Actress Loretta

10 Days

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15 even keel

17 A doodle

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Queen's"

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67 Stray

68 Round map

69 Poems

70 Unit of force

71 Madrigal man

9 Nap relief

10 Pound VIP

11 Motionless

12 Lighter

13 Cloned in a way

21 According to

22 Upon my—

23 we forget

24 Glacial ridges

25 Russ. salt

28 Lays down

30 In (swindle)

34 Talas

35 Glad about

37 — fits

38 Caged

40 Ind. state

45 Sunday desk

46 Cloned

49 Musical sounds

51 Key — FL

52 Homeric work

53 Name

Bush allows expanding benefits for jobless

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress rushed a \$5.3 billion jobless benefits extension to President Bush Friday and he immediately signed the measure which had kept him at odds with lawmakers for four months.

Final approval came on a vote of 91-2 after the Senate agreed to the measure. The House had passed the bill on Thursday.

The action should get checks to some casualties of the recession

by Thanksgiving. The House had passed the bill on Thursday.

The agreement means that 2.8 million Americans could ultimately get up to 20 extra weeks of unemployment benefits once their standard 26 weeks of coverage has run out.

It also ends a four-month stalemate between Mr. Bush and lawmakers that saw the president kill two earlier versions of the legislation.

After approving the measure, the Senate adopted a second bill

on a voice vote that would make the benefit package approved moments earlier even better for many states.

Under the new agreement, all states would qualify for either 13 or 20 weeks of extra benefits. The old legislation would have provided just six weeks of benefits for 23 states plus the Virgin Islands.

Also under the new agreement, workers in all states would qualify for the extra benefits if they had used up their regular 26 weeks of coverage since March 1. Under the old legislation, workers in 18 states would get benefits only if they used up their regular coverage after Nov. 17.

The more generous benefits, when enacted, would supersede the ones in the Bill the Senate sent Mr. Bush.

The expanded benefits in the second measure would be paid for by shortening the programme so it would expire next June 13. Under the bill sent to Mr. Bush Friday, the benefits would not have expired until July 4.

Mr. Bush had called on the lawmakers to rush him the legislation Friday.

"People are hurting out there," Mr. Bush said in a telephone hookup with Fortune 500 executives.

But Democrats were unwilling to let Mr. Bush off the hook for his longtime opposition to the measure.

"This economy is sinking into deeper and deeper trouble for two reasons — Ronald Reagan's economics and George Bush's neglect," said Edward Kennedy.

This week's bipartisan effort to send the measure to the White House masked what was an intensely partisan fight that had raged since July.

Originally a democratic initiative, Mr. Bush argued at first that the legislation was not needed because the economy was rebounding.

But since he first blocked the bill in August, the president has been faced with polls showing swelling discontent with his handling of the economy, and recent government data suggest that the U.S. economy may be toppling back into a recession.

The Labour Department said Friday that 1.1 million people would be eligible for the new benefits immediately. Another 7.7 million people were expected to qualify by July.

Wall Street posts dramatic fall

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. blue chip stocks plummeted 120 points Friday in Wall Street's worst one-day loss in two years, and analysts said more bruising sessions may lie ahead.

Computer-driven sell programmes, which automatically tell brokers when to sell, swamped the market late in the day after pessimism about the economy scared buyers out of the market.

"We are going to have an ugly session from the opening bell Monday. This kind of close on Friday is apt to spook a lot of people," said John Conlon, an analyst at brokerage firm Rothchild Inc.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 2,943.20, down 120.31 points or 3.9 per cent. Declining issues outpaced advances 1,481 to 302, with volume active at 236 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange. The average share was off \$1.20.

It was the largest drop since Oct. 13, 1989, when the Dow fell 190.58 points. The biggest fall in history was the 508-point crash on Oct. 19, 1987.

Analysts predicted that brokers would sell off more stock next week, with several saying that the Dow could eventually slip to 2,800. Wall Street's performance Friday was also expected to disrupt trading in Tokyo, London and other big financial centres.

Over-the-counter (OTC) stocks saw their fourth-biggest decline ever, with the high-flying biotechnology sector taking a profit-taking blow that rattled investors.

"They've been pushing the top end of the envelope of the OTC (stock) market for months," said Robert Caputo of Swiss Bank Corp investment banking.

"What we had was a spillover from the biotechnology market into very heavy profit-taking," he said.

The market was also spooked by the possible damage to bank earnings from a proposal in the U.S. Congress to limit interest rates charged on credit cards.

Bank and insurance stocks fell across the board, extending losses made after the Senate voted Wednesday to cap interest rates charged by credit card companies.

"Perhaps they will have to be even stricter in terms of credit card issuance and (therefore) there would be even less consumer spending," said a trader.

Panicky investors seeking safety from the stock sell-off fled to U.S. treasury bills, pushing rates to their lowest levels in 15 years.

"There's been very heavy buying," said William Sullivan, senior vice president at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. "The flight-to-quality is being prompted by this drop in equities."

The NASDAQ over-the-counter index, which hit three closing highs last week, slid 4.24 per cent or 23.55 points to close at 531.29.

Soviet ills press IMF to monitor other states less

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is planning to cut back sharply on its economic monitoring of about 50 of its member nations to devote more staff time and resources to helping the Soviet Union, international monetary sources said Friday.

The plan, which shocked some members of the IMF's board when it was presented to them last week, seemed to confirm fears of some small nations that their concerns might be overshadowed by the international drive to help Moscow.

"In the short term, there is no other choice," said one monetary source, who declined to be identified. "But that doesn't mean anyone is happy about doing it."

The sources said that smaller industrial nations and developing countries whose economies are performing well will be the ones who will suffer from the diminished surveillance.

They said the move is necessary because the fund does not have enough experienced staff to help the Soviet Union make the transition from communism to capitalism without cutting back on some of its other tasks.

It takes time to hire new economic experts and besides, the fund does not have authorisation from the member countries that pay its bills for a big increase in its staff.

The IMF traditionally likes to carry out annual economic reviews — so-called article four consultations — of all its 155 member nations. These reviews involve intensive discussions between the fund and the individual countries about the best economic policies to pursue.

Under the plan, it will carry out annual economic reviews of about two-thirds of its members — major industrial nations and developing countries whose economies are not performing well and which are borrowing or about to borrow money from the fund in support of economic reforms.

The other countries will be placed into two groups. One group, primarily smaller industrial nations, will have their performance reviewed every two years by the IMF board.

Countries in the other group will also have their performance reviewed every two years, although board members will have the option of asking for an annual review if they believe one is necessary.

Monetary sources said the board plans to review the plan again next year and may hope it will prove temporary.

"If it goes on much longer that, it will begin to affect the fund's ability to manage the world economy," one source said.

Russia takes lead in reforms, moves to control resources

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has taken the lead in introducing sweeping economic reforms and is challenging Soviet authority over his republic's vast resources of oil, gold and diamonds.

A batch of presidential decrees outlined Friday will liberalise foreign trade, introduce banking reforms, stimulate free enterprise, lift restrictions on salary increases and introduce a minimum wage.

The measures were accompanied by decisions to suspend Soviet oil export licences and take control over gold and diamond reserves, which are virtually all on Russian territory.

The decrees have not been published, but Mr. Yeltsin and his chief economic adviser Yegor Gaidar gave some details to the Russian parliament and explained why the giant republic was taking over the Soviet Union's main economic levers.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia, the biggest and richest republic, must grasp the nettle of reform and take responsibility for various measures, including servicing of the Soviet foreign debt.

"We, you and I linked together, are moving along a narrow path on the brink of an abyss. One leg is loose already. And we must pass this path as soon as possible with the help of radical reforms," he said.

Mr. Gaidar, deputy Russian prime minister, said concrete measures were required to secure the economic sovereignty of Russia, which accounts for more than

90 per cent of Soviet oil production and about 70 per cent of gold production.

"We took a decision to suspend all licences for exporting oil and products," he told parliament. International oil markets rose on the news and traders scrambled for details on how shipments from the world's biggest producer would be hit.

But Mr. Gaidar said only that the Soviet licences, for the export of 150 million tonnes of oil — or more than a third of Russian production — would be reviewed to assess the impact on dwindling domestic supplies.

"If we do not stop this process immediately, we will have no fuel in winter, the economy will come to a standstill," he said.

"There is a colossal number of infringements in this sphere. An endless number of licences has been issued without quotas. The evidence has been handed over to the ministry of internal affairs," he said.

Mr. Gaidar also said Russia needed to take control of Soviet resources of precious metals to boost its purchasing power.

"Now we have got this freedom of manoeuvre, it does not mean we will use it wisely," he said.

The two other main Soviet republics, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, have already declared control over their own production and plan to build their own reserves.

Russia said it was taking over Gokhran, the storage facility holding the country's gold reserves.

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
	Date 14/11/1991	Date 15/11/1991
Sterling Pound	1.7765	1.7850
Deutsche Mark	1.6299	1.6190
Swiss Franc	1.4465	1.4355
French Franc	5.5720	5.5345
Japanese Yen	129.63	129.35
European Currency Unit	—	1.2630

U.S. Per 100

European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Bi-currency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTR	3 MTR	6 MTR	12 MTR
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.00	5.00	5.18
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.43	10.31	10.25
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.25	9.31	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.56	7.87	7.81	7.75
French Franc	9.31	9.31	9.25	9.25
Japanese Yen	6.28	6.18	5.93	5.85
European Currency Unit	9.82	9.87	9.56	9.56

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Date: 15/11/1991

Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm

Gold 329.65 6.90 Silver 4.04 .085

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 15/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810	0.6830
Sterling Pound	1.2164	1.2225
Deutsche Mark	0.4206	0.4227
Swiss Franc	0.4742	0.4766
French Franc	0.1231	0.1237
Japanese Yen	0.5266	0.5292
Dutch Guilder	0.3734	0.3753
Swedish Krona	0.1137	0.1143
Italian Lira	0.0557	0.0560
Belgian Franc	0.02040	0.02057

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7770	1.7860
Lebanese Lira	0.0772	0.0778
Saudi Riyal	0.1813	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.18455	0.18520
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7430	1.7520
UAE Dirham	0.18455	0.18520
Greek Drachma	0.3670	0.3725
Cypriot Pound	1.4740	1.4820

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	6/11/1991 Close	13/11/1991 Close
All-Share	124.30	124.49
Banking Sector	104.80	105.06
Insurance Sector	126.03	126.32
Industry Sector	153.91	153.70
Services Sector	132.78	134.84

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Fighting rages across Croatia as ceasefire deadline nears

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav army and Croatian forces fought artillery and mortar battles across rebel Croatia Saturday just hours before a new ceasefire — 13th truce in the Balkan state's conflict.

The Serb-led army made sporadic artillery attacks on the outskirts of Dubrovnik, fighting raged in the besieged town of Vukovar and Croatian radio said federal jets launched air strikes on at least five towns and villages.

The army and Croatian officials conferred in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, to discuss lifting a blockade of federal army bases in the breakaway republic and getting humanitarian aid to the Vukovar and other besieged towns.

But the fighting dimmed prospects that the 13th ceasefire in four and a half months would end a conflict that has killed thousands of people since Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia. It was due to take effect at 6 p.m. (1700 GMT).

"There is a possibility the ceasefire might stick, but the odds are not very good," European Community (EC) peace envoy Lord Carrington told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television after returning from a trip to Yugoslavia.

Lord Carrington won agreement from leaders of Serbia, Croatia and the army this week for the U.N. to send in peacekeeping forces although differences remain over where to deploy them.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said special envoy Cyrus Vance would start a mission to discuss the deployment of peacekeeping forces, and diplomats in Belgrade said he was expected to arrive Sunday.

Mr. Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, will explore deployment of the force in a week-long visit and will be accompanied by Marrack Goulding, the British head of

peacekeeping operations at the United Nations.

The U.N. says peacekeepers can be deployed only if fighting ends first.

"As you can see, there are many ifs," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said after the Security Council met in New York to be briefed on Yugoslavia.

Battles were fiercest Saturday in eastern Croatia, particularly in the Danube town of Vukovar. Croatia says about 14,000 people are holding out there against a 12-week siege by the army and Serbian volunteers.

The Belgrade-based Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said federal troops took key positions in the heart of the town Friday.

Croatian radio said federal fighter jets fired rockets at four villages near Zupanja close to Croatia's border with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The eastern town of Osijek and surrounding villages were under artillery attack, as were areas around Nova Gradiska in the

centre of the breakaway republic. A ferry carrying 3,000 evacuees from Dubrovnik, including EC monitors, docked in the Adriatic port of Pula after a tortuous 36-hour voyage.

The ferry was crammed with women, children, the elderly, sick and wounded escaping a 47-day-old siege of the city.

In Belgrade, Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic was fighting for his position after the rump state presidency, comprising Serbia and its allies, said it would oust him and Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, both Croats.

Serbia has criticised Mr. Markovic's handling of the fighting and the prime minister, a 66-year-old former businessman, has seen power slip from federal authorities to the republics.

But he is not certain to quit because the EC and the United States do not recognise the rump presidency boycotted by Croatia and three other republics.

Sihanouk urges Cambodians to deal with Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodians must put aside feelings of revenge over the bloody Khmer Rouge past if they are to have peace in the future, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in his first address to his people after returning from a long exile.

"Even if we feel bad in our hearts we have to forget the past," the former king told tens of thousands gathered in front of his royal palace on the Mekong.

Prince Sihanouk said he did not like the Khmer Rouge, who will share in decision-making on the Supreme National Council, which represents Cambodian sovereignty under peace accords signed in Paris on Oct. 23.

"How can I like them?" said the 69-year-old prince, who returned from 13 years in exile Thursday. "The Khmer Rouge killed my relatives. They killed five of my children and 14 of my grandchildren."

The prince was allied with the Khmer Rouge in the group's fight against the Lon Nol government in the 1970s. Lon Nol had deposed then-premier Sihanouk in a 1970 U.S.-engineered coup.

Prince Sihanouk later became head of state when the Khmer Rouge occupied Phnom Penh, but quickly ran afoul of the Maoists and was placed under house arrest.

After the Vietnamese invaded in 1978 to put an end to the

Khmer Rouge "killing fields" years, which cost a million Cambodians their lives, Prince Sihanouk once again allied himself with the far-left organisation.

Prince Sihanouk has defended his links to the Khmer Rouge, terming them killers but patriots who fought against the imperialism of Vietnam.

"Bad feelings remain in our hearts," he told the enthusiastic crowd Saturday, most of whom had lost relatives to the Khmer Rouge, "and there is no cure for that."

"But we have to reconstruct and if the Khmer Rouge remain rebels and bandits if we do not... have clemency then we cannot have peace."

Blast kills 2 IRA suspects near U.K. military band

ST ALBANS, England (R) — Two suspected IRA bombers apparently killed themselves in a bungled blast aimed at a British military band in the market town of St Albans.

A bomb explosion late Friday ripped through an empty bank building near a concert hall where the band was performing.

Police blamed the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) and said the two victims may have blown themselves up in an attack that went wrong.

The blast rocked St Albans Civic Centre, in the heart of the south England market town, where more than 300 people were attending a charity concert by the Blues and Royals Regiment, an army band targeted by the IRA in the past.

The head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, George Churchill-Coleman, said all indications pointed to the IRA, which is battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Police discovered two bodies, believed to be a man and a

woman, who took the brunt of the explosion. Bits of body were found up to 100 metres away, making identification difficult.

Churchill-Coleman said it was possible the guerrillas might have scored an "own goal" when the device went off as they were moving it closer to the concert hall. He did not rule out the possibility the two might have been innocent bystanders.

"It is very likely that the two people who were deceased were handling, tampering or in some way looking at the device when it exploded," local police chief David Cansdale told a news conference.

Britain Saturday put almost 2,000 extra troops onto the streets of Northern Ireland in a bid to stem a wave of sectarian bloodshed.

Seven people have died this week in a vicious "tit-for-tat" war between Protestant loyalists and Catholic Republican gunmen.

The IRA has in the past resorted to attacks on the British mainland for propaganda value.

Salvador peace may be in doubt

MEXICO CITY (R) — As the hours ticked away towards the start of a unilateral rebel truce in El Salvador, guerrilla commanders spoke Friday of handing over the country's destiny to "the people."

But many Salvadoreans, hardened by 12 years of bloodshed in one of Latin America's bloodiest conflicts, remain to be convinced that peace is around the corner.

"The Salvadorean people will put behind them more and more their scepticism and start seeking to work too so that peace is possible by Dec. 15," Roberto Canas, a rebel spokesman at United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Mexico City, told reporters.

"The peace process is not just the government's and ours," a rebel field commander flung to the talks from the battlefield said in a separate interview. "It is the people's."

Mr. Canas said that on Friday rebel units began manoeuvring so as to be in a position to observe the truce on a defensive footing from midnight (0600 GMT Saturday).

But amid uncertainty about exactly how the U.S.-backed government of President Alfredo Cristiani would respond to the guerrilla truce, journalists saw hundreds of government troops Friday afternoon marching on the traditional guerrilla stronghold of Guapaz Volcano, just 30 kilometres north of San Salvador.

Armed forces spokesman Colonel Baltazar Lopez meanwhile told Reuters: "We cannot believe in guerrilla truces because they have not honoured them before and they use them as a tactical instrument."

The unilateral ceasefire, in which the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said it would suspend offensive actions, urban attacks and economic sabotage, was hailed by the United Nations and the United States as a positive step towards ending the war, which has claimed some 75,000 lives.

But Salvadoreans interviewed at random, in San Salvador remained at best sceptical, confirming an opinion poll published just before the current round of talks in which 90 per cent of those asked said they did not believe an immediate peace would flow from the 19-month-old negotiations.

Liberians pour into capital as peace force deploys

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Thousands of Liberians poured into the capital from the countryside Saturday as a West African peacekeeping force began taking control of territory held by rebel leader Charles Taylor.

Dozens of trucks carrying soldiers from seven West African nations left Monrovia Friday. They drove past Liberians, coming from areas held by Mr. Taylor, banners saying "the fighting is ended," "war is over" and "give peace a chance."

Under an agreement signed by all factions in the 20-months civil war, all Liberian fighters are to be disarmed within two months. More than 13,000 people are believed to have died in the war, and hundreds of thousands fled to neighbouring countries.

Maj.-Gen. Ishaya Bakut, the peacekeeper's Nigerian commander, told a news conference Friday the disarmament and encampment of warring factions "is a reconciliatory exercise that must be characterised by total commitment of all Liberians to rid their beloved country of all types of arms and ammunition."

Senegalese Foreign Minister Djibo Ka told reporters the troops hoped things would go peacefully but had orders to use force if needed.

Senegalese troops were among the first of the heavily armed soldiers to leave the capital.

West African troops from seven countries ended the battle for Monrovia with devastating bombings raids a year ago.

Their convoys headed north-west to the Sierra Leone border, east toward the country's main Robertsfield International Airport and northeast toward Gbarnga, the central town that Taylor has made his capital.

Britain edges toward European union

LONDON (AP) — Britain appears closer to signing momentous treaties on European political and economic union next month after grudgingly making its first significant concessions.

But for the 12-nation European Community's most recalcitrant member, the issue of greater European Union remains embroiled in furious debate.

Prime Minister John Major is manoeuvring between his divided Conservative Party at home and his continental allies who want to extend European powers over issues ranging from foreign policy to working hours.

"No one should assume that, simply for the sake of agreement, we would accept some of the propositions now before us. We could not," Mr. Major said last Tuesday, rejecting the latest draft treaty on political union by the Community's Dutch presidency.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd accused the community of trying to involve itself "in the nooks and crannies of everyday life."

The draft is the focus of an accelerated round of negotiations among Community officials before a crucial summit in the Dutch town of Maastricht on Dec. 9-10.

At Maastricht, the leaders are supposed to sign the new treaties, which officials have been negotiating for the past year.

Despite Mr. Major's warnings that huge problems remain and his fundamental objection to the word "federal" in the draft treaty, the British leader has signalled conditional acceptance of a single European currency.

In another move in the final weeks of intense bargaining, Mr. Hurd conceded for the first time last week the principle of extending the powers of the 512-member European Parliament.

But the British concession was limited to giving the parliament based in Strasbourg, France, powers over laws needed to complete the Community's barrier-free market.

It fell far short of German-led demands for the powers to be extended to major issues such as industry, energy and a Europe-wide transport and communication network.

Similarly, the British acceptance of a single currency, providing it can have an "opt-out" clause stipulating special arrangements by the "sheltered" nations, is causing resentment among the Italians and Germans.

British officials say that without the opt-out clause on the currency and without removal of the word "federal," which Britain sees as an erosion of sovereignty, major will veto treaties.

But nobody wants to be spoiler — including the prime minister whose predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, was ousted just one year ago.

Mr. Major, who came to power declaring he wanted to put Britain "at the heart of Europe," is negotiating individually with the leaders of the other top three countries in the community, Germany, France and Italy.

Top MP urges Jakarta to review rule in Timor

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia must reevaluate its rule in East Timor after the army opened fire on mourners there this week, a leading parliamentarian said Saturday.

"There needs to be an evaluation of the whole policy of our approach in East Timor," Marzuki Darusman, a member of the ruling Golkar Party and one of the country's few outspoken members of parliament, told Reuters.

East Timor's Bishop Ximenes Carlos Belo has said he had reports that up to 180 people were killed in the shooting last Tuesday. The official death toll is 19 with 91 wounded.

Indonesia, struggling for 16 years to integrate the unwilling former Portuguese colony into its diverse archipelago, has promised to send a team to investigate the shooting.

It will be headed by the deputy chief of strategic intelligence, Major General Arie Sudewo.

Jakarta must set up an independent commission "to signal a strong message to the international community of the seriousness of the government about clarifying what happened," Mr. Marzuki said.

He suggested it be made up of Indonesians independent of government.

Diplomats say the shootings have turned the tide against Indonesian rule in East Timor, still not recognised by the United Nations.

Jakarta has controlled the predominantly Roman Catholic province of 750,000 people since 1976.

Without an independent study that satisfies the world community soon, Indonesia can expect international problems, Mr. Marzuki said.

Witnesses dispute the army version of Tuesday's incident that it was a misunderstanding of orders and that troops had been provoked into firing at the crowd of 3,500 who was mourning the death in riots two weeks earlier of an independence sympathiser.

"It was a case of a planned and systematic massacre... this was a very disciplined operation. This was not a situation where you had some bothead who ran amok," said U.S. journalist Allan Nairn who had been in the crowd.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who returned to Indonesia Friday night, called foreign media reports of the incident exaggerated but admitted it was bound to affect his country.

Mr. Marzuki said that Indonesia's rapid development of East Timor after three centuries of neglect by Portuguese colonialists had been too fast while other aspects of life had been left behind.

"The people have no sense of identity with the government except with (East Timor Governor Mario Viegas) Carrascalao. He was the sole hope of the people," Mr. Marzuki said.

Mr. Carrascalao, himself Timorese, has blamed the army for what happened, saying it has undermined his credibility to rule and charged the military with backing pro-Jakarta extremists.

Sanctions to force change. Mr. Baker had been seeking visible progress on a range of issues, including Peking's policies on human rights, nuclear arms proliferation, and its use of prison labour to boost its already surging trade surplus.

Unless China makes significant concessions soon, there is a real prospect that relations will sour even further.

Mr. Baker is the most senior U.S. official to visit China since troops killed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking on June 4, 1989.

The Chinese army crackdown on student protests around the capital's Tiananmen Square plunged Sino-U.S. relations to their lowest point since diplomatic ties were established in 1979.

Mr. Baker made clear to Chinese leaders that his visit was a make-or-break opportunity for a fresh start.

Reporting on Mr. Baker's meeting with Mr. Lee, the NCNA said "Baker said his trip is of critical significance for future U.S.-China relations."

Mr. Baker stressed in his talks with Mr. Yang that "this current visit must not end in failure," the news agency said.

Mr. Yang, using vague diplomatic language that appeared to play down any urgency of the problems, was quoted as saying that "there are some twists and turns in the Sino-U.S. relationship and now the time has come to end the twists and turns."

Michael Jackson cancels sexy part of new video

LOS ANGELES (R) — Shocked by a public outcry over his new video, Black Or White, superstar Michael Jackson Friday cancelled a segment that shows him sexually rubbing his pelvis and unzipping his fly. A spokeswoman said Jackson also ordered a sequence showing the entertainer being transformed from a panther and smashing up cars to be cut from the video.

The deletions followed mass protests against the video, broadcast in 27 countries Thursday, by fans and parents who were shocked and dismayed by what they viewed as depravity and violence in the 11-minute film. Jackson was equally shocked at the adverse reaction and called for the cuts within hours of learning that instead of turning people on, it had turned them off.

In a statement released by his publicists, Solters, Roskin, Friedman in Los Angeles, the 33-year-old Jackson said, "It upsets me to think that Black Or White could influence any child or adult to destructive behaviour, either sexual or violent."

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Kenyan police disperse crowds at banned rally site

NAIROBI (R) — Riot police used tear gas and batons Saturday to disperse crowds milling around the site of a banned pro-democracy rally in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Five opposition leaders tried to reach the Kamukunji sports ground to address the meeting but were arrested near the site before speaking, police said.

The government of President Daniel Arap Moi had banned the rally in advance, describing the organisers as anarchists.

Hundreds of young men waving tree branches — a sign of peace in Kenya — and shouting slogans against the government milled around the narrow streets near Kamukunji throughout the morning.

"We want democracy," shouted one young man, running to escape as a group of riot police advanced slowly along the street.

Helicopters circled overhead and the area around Kamukunji, a poor residential area in the east of the city, was tense.

A group of U.S. and German diplomats tried to go to the site to observe the meeting, but were turned away by police.

Several foreign and local journalists were briefly detained as

they tried to approach the Kamukunji area.

"The situation is completely under control," said Police Commissioner Philip Kilongo.

The banned rally, the latest attempt by government critics to push Mr. Arap Moi into political reform in the one-party East African state, was organised by an outlawed opposition group, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD).

Opposition spokesmen had urged supporters to turn up despite stern warnings from the government and the arrest of at least seven opposition leaders in a pre-rally crackdown early Friday.

The United States, Germany, Sweden and Britain have all protested against the arrests by Mr. Arap Moi, who has been in office since 1978 and who says the former British colony is not ready for multi-party politics.

The opposition leaders arrested Saturday were Law Society of Kenya Chairman Paul Mutitu, FORD member and former parliamentarian Martin Shikuku, FORD members Masinde Muliro and Philip Gachoka, and lawyer James Oregu.

Police fired on a mob that was attempting to wrest control of another polling station in the Bihar district of Patepur, killing one person. A man was blown up while making a bomb elsewhere in the state, police said.

Authorities in Bihar have issued orders to police to shoot anybody attempting to take over a polling station.

Election security has been beefed up in Bihar and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, two states chronically beset by caste and religious strife and often troubled by polling fraud and violence.

The largely peaceful campaign ended in violence Friday in the southern district of Nandyal — where Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is seeking a seat — as four people, including state assembly candidate, were killed in a bomb explosion.

Mr. Rao, who was thrust into office in June after Mr. Gandhi

4 killed as Indians vote in by-elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Four people were killed as by-elections began in India Saturday in a first trial of strength since Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party scraped to power in June with a parliamentary minority.

Two people were killed and four injured when rival political party workers fired on each other for control of a polling station in the Vaishali constituency of the eastern state of Bihar, police said in the state capital Patna.

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Mr. Rao, who was thrust into office in June after Mr. Gandhi

was assassinated, must win if he is to retain his job. According to Indian law, unelected ministers must win a parliamentary seat within six months of taking office or lose their jobs.

Mr. Rao, an impressive 70-year-old veteran of Congress battles, is expected to do so easily. His defence minister, Shree Pawar, is also tipped to win in his home state of Maharashtra.

The by-elections in 15 parliamentary constituencies and 56 state assembly seats will give some hint of how voters view Mr. Rao's drastic moves to reform India's debt-laden economy.

Mr. Rao has slashed government spending and red tape and welcomed foreign investors in a reversal of the ideal of socialist self-sufficiency adopted at independence from Britain in 1947.

But with two major opposition parties battling for prestige gains, no one — including Congress — expects the government to sweep the polls on a platform of economic austerity measures.

Congress is expected to win the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, which Mr. Gandhi won handsomely on May 20, the day before he was blown up by a woman suicide bomber.

But there is no way the polls can give Mr. Rao quite as many seats as he needs for a majority in parliament, where Congress rules with the help of a divided opposi-

tion and about a score of support among small parties and independents.

About a third of the by-elections are being held in Uttar Pradesh, largely because Hindu-Muslim violence during the general election forced the cancellation of many contests there.

More than 360 people were killed in that election, India's bloodiest since independence.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept to power in Uttar Pradesh — India's most populous state, which has produced all but two of the country's prime ministers — on the

back of a Hindu militant campaign to claim the site of a mosque in the state's holy town of Ayodhya.

The dispute has helped to bring down two governments and sparked Hindu-Muslim riots over the past two years in which 2,000 people have been killed.

By-election results will be announced late Sunday, the Election Commission said.

Meanwhile, India's Supreme Court has ordered a state government not to build a new temple on the